

Welcome to Worship for
First Sunday in Advent

An Interactive Service of the Word



Sunday, November 30, 2025

All Saints Lutheran Church

722 Rockbridge Road ♦ Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Ashton Roberts, Pastor
John Womack, Director of Music



Welcome to worship!

We are so glad that you are here.

Please feel free to utilize this QR code using your smartphone to access our website, Facebook & Instagram pages, and to give online. Your generosity for God's church and presence is making a difference, both here in this ministry and throughout the community. Thank you!

Today we will hear scripture, pray, sing hymns, and work together to prepare our space for the Advent season. There are times you will be invited forward to help decorate our worship space or bring up a special offering.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Sue

PRELUDE

John Womack

During this time of meditation, the assembly is asked to remain silent.

The assembly stands in body or Spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Sue

We gather together in this place:

prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,

we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

we who dare to dream God's dream.

We proclaim expectation with Isaiah!

God's redemption is near!

Through tears and through trials,

we hold fast to our hope.

Do not fear, for God is faithful.

Our redemption rises with the dawn.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

We have come to wonder and praise

SONG

All Earth is Hopeful - Verse 1&4

ELW266



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra_al Sal - va - dor
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.



y_el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
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



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
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



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
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.

Opening Prayer

Deacon Sue

Let us pray,
God who is, who was, and who is to come, we enter this season of Advent
keenly aware of the brokenness in and around us.
Comfort our longing spirits,
and teach us again how to be people of profound hope.
You never leave our side,
but walk with us in our pilgrimage toward the renewed world you promise.
We pray as expectant people,
seeking again the assurance of your salvation,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ,
our hope and our Savior.
Amen.

Please be seated

NARRATION: Decorating the Sanctuary

Deacon Sue

Why do we do this?
What does it mean?
During the Advent season we prepare for the One who has come, whom we expect to come,
and who will come again. We prepare our hearts and make room for the Messiah and dare to
dream God's dream for us.
In the hanging of the greens we share with Christians throughout the ages the memory and
anticipation of Christ's coming.
We decorate our church with the symbols of love, joy, hope, and peace.
Why do we do this?
To tell the story again and then proclaim: Jesus is born. God is with us!

Presentation of the Paraments

Joann Rosselle

Susan will turn the paraments out on the altar, and Joann will do the one on the pulpit during the song
Gracious God,
we offer to you
these *items that will beautify our worship space*,
which have been inspired by our love for you.
Accept our grateful thanksgiving for what you have given us
in the Word made flesh,
and bless our Christmas worship
as we announce once again the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

READING Isaiah 2:1-5

Kelly Kraus

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains
 and shall be raised above the hills;
 all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,
 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the LORD!

Word of God Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT PRAYER

Deacon Sue

God of hope,
You call us to lay down our weapons of war, to transform them into tools of growth and gardening. You created us to be gardeners,
people who tend to the growth of creation around us.
Help us abandon our violent ways and choose peaceful acts of justice and mercy.
May we sow seeds of love in place of fear, kindness in place of cruelty.
And when we are tempted to pick up weapons again, when our neighbors draw our wrath, remind us that each person we encounter is made in your image,
beloved and worthy of care. Let hope grow up from these gardens of faith.
Amen.

NARRATION: THE ADVENT WREATH

Madi Crutchfield & AK Lee

M: This simple circle of evergreen branches testifies to the continuation of life and life without end.
A: The four candles encircle the Christ candle to signify God's Son as the light of the world.
M: The four candles represent the four weeks in Advent.
A: Each Sunday, we will light a candle, and on Christmas Eve, the Christ candle will be lit.
M: With increasing brightness from the candles, we experience the Light of the world and find hope in the coming of Jesus.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Deacon Sue

The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective.

**The element of the story we focus on changes how we hear it,
how we imagine it, and how we experience it.**

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph.
How do they look? They are unaware that their unborn child will catch onto the prophets' visions and challenge the world to usher in justice, peace, and transformation.
What are they dreaming of for their child?
What looks are they getting from those nearby?

Open your eyes.

We know the world is not always an easy place to welcome new life.
And yet, babies are born every day, and new families are formed.

What must those moments have been like for Mary and Joseph searching for a place to be?

Now, just like then, exhausted expectant parents,
far from home, are searching for safe spaces to settle.

What must that be like for displaced families today?

Now, just like then, faithful families trust that somehow,
each seemingly impossible situation will work out.

Mary and Joseph held on to hope when their options seemed to be in short supply.
It was a hope that things would get better.

**We light the candle of hope
because hope creates a path for a new,
unknown story to unfold.**

SONG

Christ, Be Our Light - Verses 1-2

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Deacon Sue

Heeding Jesus' call to keep awake, let us be humble and bold
in confessing the truth of the brokenness in our hearts, our actions, and our systems.
You may kneel or remain seated

God of hope,
we confess that we too often seek salvation from that which will not save us.
We cling to our own comfort,
rather than being generous with our gifts and privilege.
We are complicit in systems that benefit us,
rather than challenging the exploitation of neighbors and creation.
We act from fear rather than faith.

**Transform our hearts with your mercy.
Forgive us and renew us.
Make us restless for justice.
Teach us again to be people of courage and hope.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
Amen.**

Heaven and earth may pass away,
but God's faithfulness is sure.
You are forgiven and forever claimed as beloved of God,
through the saving love of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Amy, Ian, & Madi - Bring nativity pieces forward during the reading and place them under the altar when the music starts

Narration: The Crèche

Mary Kay Kates

Possibly the best-known Christmas decorating tradition is the scene of Bethlehem, where the birth took place. There was a stable filled with animals, shepherds, and angels. Mary and Joseph watched in wonder as visitors came searching for their child, baby Jesus. We set this scene before us during the Advent season as a reminder of God's gift to us.



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919

Arr. from *Carols for Choirs 1*, © Oxford University Press 1960.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kelly Kraus

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.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation.

We offer to you now the concerns of our hearts, either silently or aloud.

Additional Intercessions

Deacon Sue

A brief silence

- We pray for Ray; Ruth; John; Todd; Toby; Roger and Kate; Joe.
- We pray for Flossie; Jim and Sharon; Charlie; Alex; John.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

- We pray for all people of the world impacted by ongoing war, conflict, and violence, especially those caught between Ukraine and Russia; between Israel and Hamas; between Pakistan and Afghanistan; in South Sudan; in Myanmar.
- We pray for the cease-fire to hold in Gaza, and for the work of relief agencies.
- We pray for schools everywhere, that all students and those who care for them may feel safe and free from fear.
- We pray for ELCA indigenous ministries and tribal relations and for the work of truth and healing.
- We pray for justice around the world and here at home, that God may delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion, and peace.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain
 We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas
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OFFERING

Deacon Sue

We have several ways to receive your offering. There is a basket on the table by the sanctuary doors, or you can utilize the QR code on the front of your bulletin to submit your offering online. Mailing your offering to the church is also an option.

During this season of Advent, we will build our giving tree with non-perishable food items, which will be given to the Lilburn Co-op after Epiphany.

Each Sunday, you will be invited to place your items on the ladder tree behind the pulpit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Kelly Kraus

Holy God,
 we bring our gifts and offerings to you
 because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger,
 something greater than any system this world offers us.
 We believe when we trust you with our resources,
 the kin(g)dom of God comes much closer to reality on earth.
 Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love.
Amen.

Placing of the Ornaments

Deacon Sue

After the reading, you are invited to help decorate the tree. All of the ornaments are laid out for you. Each Chrismon was made by a member of All Saints many years ago.

A Chrismon is a gold and white ornament with Christian Symbols and gets its name from "Christ - Monogram". The Chrismon tree was first used by North American Lutherans in 1957.

Lord Jesus,

You are the light of the world,
And we remember that light as we decorate this tree
that you have provided from your creation.

When we see this tree,
remind us that we are all part of your family,
and that even though we are all different,
You love each of us as a precious child.

Amen.

Here in this place, we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
Here we will remember his Advent,
His birth in Bethlehem,
weak and helpless as an infant.
And here we rekindle our prayer,
"Come, Lord Jesus"
as we await his coming

**All: Hang symbols and signs of Christ —
ruler, prophet, priest.**

**Hang stars, crosses, triangles, the "alpha" and the "omega"
to remind us of his identity, and of his story. Which becomes our story.**

Decorate the tree – soft music will play in the background.

Please use this time to reflect on the symbols and what they might mean.

We encourage everyone to come forward and take turns placing a Chrismon on the tree.

We would like the tree completely decorated, so you may hang several ornaments or remain in your seat while others decorate.

A reading from Isaiah will take place once the tree is decorated and everyone has returned to their seat.

READING Isaiah 9:6-7

Kelly Kraus

A reading from the book of Isaiah, chapter 9

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Deacon Sue

Loving God, you have gathered and enlightened us,
and you give us the gift of creativity.
We give you our thanks and praise
for this community of faith
and ask your blessing on our witness in the world.
May this space and our lives be invitations to others
to experience the love you have so freely shared with us.
We pray in the name of the babe of Bethlehem,
our Lord Jesus.
Amen.

The assembly stands in body or Spirit.

BLESSING

Deacon Sue

Go forth from this place,
allowing God to forge you into instruments of peace
for the hard work of peacemaking in our families, church, community, and world.
Making peace requires us to enter into spaces of conflict.
So may God harden our resolve, not our hearts;
strengthen our will, not our arms; sharpen our minds, not our words.
May we listen to the cries of others like John in the wilderness,
guarding our hearts from being defensive or indifferent.
And may we be moved to peace not for the sake of avoiding an argument,
but for the sake of the gospel.
Amen.

Blessed

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Deacon Sue

Go out into the world,
 embracing the will to dream,
 and may the peace we have experienced here
 sustain you for the days ahead.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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