



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship
December 7, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Community Moment

Prelude

(please rise in body or spirit)

Advent Candle Lighting

The coming of our Lord is near,
Something new is around the corner.

**Love, joy, peace and hope,
We await the promise of your coming.**

The coming of our Lord is near,
Something new is appearing.

**A child, a Savior, God's much beloved son,
We await the hope of your coming.**

The coming of our Lord is near,
Something new is being birthed.

**A new heaven, a new world, a new community,
We await the long expected One.**

The coming of our Lord is near,
We wait in joyful expectation for what is emerging,

**Love comes down at Christmas,
And we await your coming.**

Candle Lighting

The coming of our Lord is near
and we await the promise of your coming.

**Light of the world draw close,
Shine on us with your guiding presence,
Shine in us with your truth and forgiveness,
Shine through us with your mercy and love.**

Hymn *Christ, Be Our Light* ELW 715 (refrain only)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending ELW 435

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

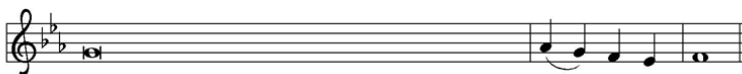
(ELW p. 98)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



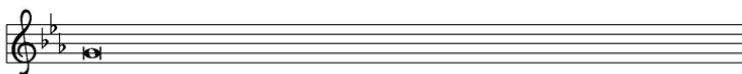
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



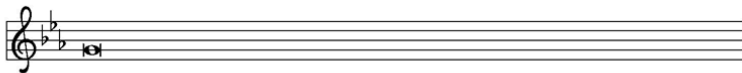
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Prayer Of The Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(please be seated)

Reading

Reader: The Reading today is Isaiah 11:1-10.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see

or decide by what his ears hear,

but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;

the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together,

and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to
the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his
dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Reader: The Psalm today is from Psalm 72.

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen. Amen.

(please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 v. 2

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Preacher: The Gospel according to
Matthew the 3rd Chapter

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

(please be seated)

The Message

Pastor Mark Boster

(please rise in body or spirit)

Hymn Of The Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry ELW 249

The Apostles' Creed

**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 to the dead.**

**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 Church

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease especially those we name aloud or in the quietness of our hearts (*pause...*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Presiding Minister:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Greet one another: **"Peace be with you."**

(please be seated)

Offering

Prepare Ye

arr. Russell Robinson

Adult Choir with Chris Braitin, soloist
and Ed Richard, congas

(please rise in body or spirit)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray together. **Nourishing God, 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.**

Great Thanksgiving

(ELW p. 107)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presiding Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW p. 108)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words Of Institution

The 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.

(please be seated)

Invitation to Communion

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW 272

Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264

Hark, the Glad Sound! ELW 239

(please rise in body or spirit)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray together. **God our host, at this table you
have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth,
eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.**

Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come ELW 263

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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