

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 30, 2025

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: ADVENT 1 CHRIST IS COMING! BE READY

Today is the first Sunday of the season we call Advent. The word Advent means “coming.” In Advent we anticipate three ‘comings’ of Christ –He came as a baby in Bethlehem, He comes to us now in Word and Sacrament, He will come again visibly on the Last Day. The themes of the four Sundays of Advent are as follows:

1 **Be Ready.** 2 Repent. 3 Rejoice. 4 Revealed.

Today, we hear the call: **Be Ready.** Jesus will come again, but at an unknown time. Therefore, we want to always **be ready** to meet the Lord when He comes in glory to judge to the living and the dead. Readied through faith in His promises, that day will be one of great joy for God’s people!

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Each week of Advent a candle is lit. As the light grows, we are reminded how God gave successive promises about the coming Savior through the prophets, providing more and more details about the Savior until at his birth “the true light that gives light to every man” had arrived into this world (John 1:9). The round wreath of evergreen symbolizes the eternal life Jesus brings: in Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind (John 1:4).

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

35-minute services @ 6:30 p.m.

December 3, 10 and 17

We will hear readings from Luke 1 pertaining to the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ.

The offering from the Wednesday Advent services will go to Christian Life Resources - a WELS-affiliated ministry that addresses life issues.

Please see their website: www.christianliferesources.com

BLUE

Blue is the color of the skies. It is the color of hope. You’ll notice the pastors’ stoles are blue. This is the color of the season of Advent because we are hopeful and eager for the coming of Christ. His coming is a joyful, happy thing for us as we remember He came from heaven to save us and will come again from heaven to usher in the new heavens and earth.

PRAYER RESOURCE

The Advent Candle rite and closing prayer today are from a website by a WELS pastor with many free prayer resources: www.acollectionofprayers.com

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sermon Rev. Jordan Ertl
Accompanist Mrs. Lisa Schoenherr
Projection Slides Amy Larson

OPENING HYMN

The Advent of Our King | CW 309:1-4

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit¹.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever;

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

¹ This is the same Word of God that is used with the water in Holy Baptism. Since the time of the early Church the person baptized receives 'the sign of the cross on their head and heart to mark them as one redeemed by Christ the crucified' either just before or after the Baptism. So we begin the service by recalling how God brought us into His family through Baptism.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (*Isaiah 9:2*)

Our Savior Jesus said, "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (*Matthew 24:44*)

All will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
(*1 Peter 4:5*)

Christ himself has given apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers to make God's people ready for works of service. (*Ephesians 4:11*)

He will strengthen our hands to do his work and open our lips to declare his praise.
(*Psalms 51:15*)

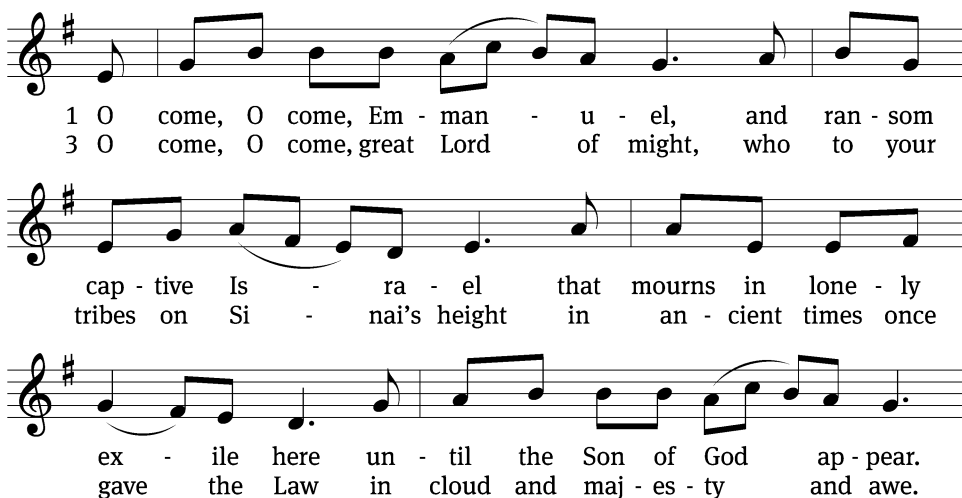
Let us pray.

Almighty God, you strengthen us that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. With Word and Sacrament, make ready our hearts. Make us ready to receive your Word and live by it daily. Make us ready to live our faith through love and service. And finally, make us ready to meet you face to face on the day your Son comes to judge the living and the dead; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

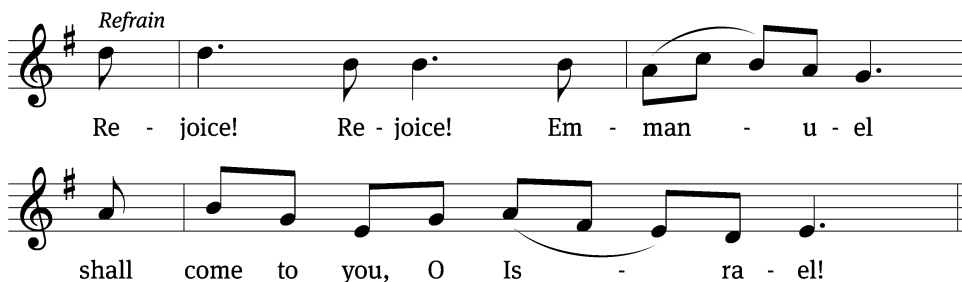
Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | CW 327



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times once
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
gave the Law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent., alt
Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹This is the message that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²This will take place in the latter days:

The mountain of the LORD's house will be established
as the chief of the mountains.

It will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it like a river.

³Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
Then he will instruct us about his ways,
and we will walk in his paths."

For from Zion the law will go out,
and the LORD's word will go out from Jerusalem.

⁴He will judge between the nations,
and he will mediate for many peoples.
Then they will beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into blades for trimming vines.

Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
nor will they learn war anymore.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 80

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION²

Alleluia. The one who testifies about these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36–44

³⁶“No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man returns. ³⁸In fact, in the days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the very day that Noah entered the ark. ³⁹And they did not realize what was coming until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man returns.

⁴⁰“At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending | **CW 487**

SERMON

Matthew 24:36-44

“Be ready for the known unknown”

Please stand

² Today’s acclamation verse is Revelation 22:20. The Church responds eagerly to Jesus promise to come again.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special Intercessions

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Offering plates are found by the doors of the worship space.

A special offering can be made by using this QR code.

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. (2Co 9:13)



Please stand

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS

CW 1026

Tune: EWING



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: Alexander C. Ewing

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

CW 1059

Tune: PUER NOBIS



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled



cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will



took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: Latin, 15th cent.

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Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of “Close Communion,” meaning we commune members of Peace and churches affiliated with Peace. For further explanation, please see the front inside cover of this worship folder. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near | CW 488

Prepare the Royal Highway | CW 302

Please stand

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go ☩ in peace.

Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

PRAYER³

Dear Lord God,
awaken us,
that we may be ready
when your dear Son comes,
that we may receive him with joy
and serve you with pure hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

The Advent of Our King | **CW 309:5,6**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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³ This prayer from the *Pomeranian Church Agenda* has been attributed to Martin Luther.