

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 14, 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 3 CHRIST IS COMING! REJOICE

Today is the third Sunday of the season of the Church Year 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.

The Savior has forgiven our sins and therefore, will deliver His people from every evil when He comes again. God’s unfailing promises give us the ability to rejoice in our hearts even when there may be tears in our eyes. *Christ is coming: Rejoice!*

## PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ 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](http://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](http://www.acollectionofprayers.com)

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

Presider ..... Rev. Jordan Ertl  
Sermon ..... Rev. Shaun Arndt  
Accompanist .....Mrs. Lynn Proeber  
Projection Slides ..... Amy Larson

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

**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.**

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<sup>1</sup> This was the Word of God used with the water in your baptism, where not a mere gesture of the cross was put upon you, but rather Jesus' death and resurrection became your own through God's gracious promise (see Romans 6).

## 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*)

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;

**they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.** (*Isaiah 9:3*)

Christ himself has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, shattering the yoke of sin that burdened us. (*Isaiah 53:4*)

**He restores to us the joy of salvation and grants us willing spirits. By his stripes our weary souls are healed.** (*Psalms 51:12, Isaiah 53:5*)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you give strength to the weary and pronounce blessings on those who mourn. You have sent us a Savior. You have made us your people. Fill our hearts with joy that flows from the forgiveness of our sins, joy powered by the resurrection of our living Savior, that we may shine like the stars of the heavens, bringing glory to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

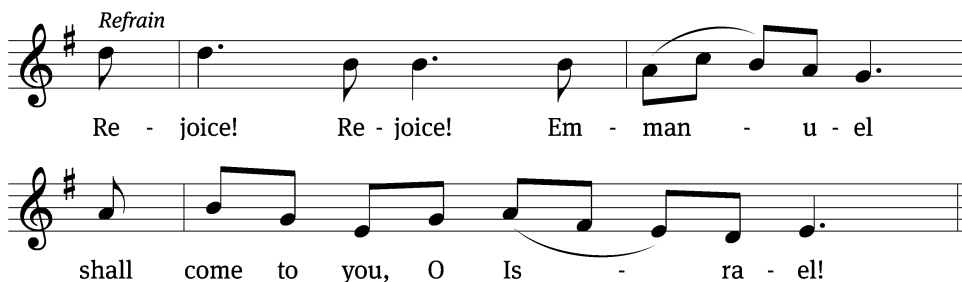
## HYMN RESPONSE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* | CW 327

5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
6 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us

wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y

leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.



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.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING

### Isaiah 35

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the desert will be glad.

The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.

<sup>2</sup>It will bloom lavishly,

and there will be great joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.

It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make the shaky knees steady.

<sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong.

Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.  
Waters will flow in the wilderness,  
and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.  
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup>A highway will be there,  
a road that will be called the holy way.  
The impure will not walk there.  
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.  
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,  
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.  
They will not be found there,  
but only the redeemed will walk there.

<sup>10</sup>Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.  
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,  
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Happiness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

**Psalm 146**

## SECOND READING

**James 5:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup>See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Matthew 11:10**

Alleluia. This is the one about whom it is written,

**‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*When the King Shall Come Again | CW 307*

**SERMON**

**Isaiah 35**

*Singing in the Desert*

*Please stand*

**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.**

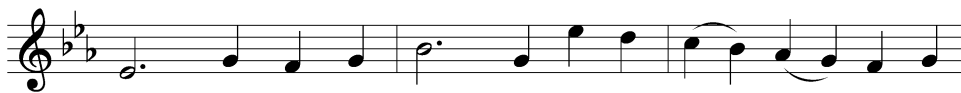
## AGNUS

CW 1032

*Tune: SUANTRAI*



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 took our  
sin, has paid its price; your per-fect love will nev - er



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

Text: Michael D. Schultz  
Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

*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

*As Angels Joyed with One Accord | CW 320*

*Comfort, Comfort All My People | CW 312*

*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.**

## PRAYER

O God, you make us glad  
with the yearly expectation  
of the birthday of Christ,  
your only Son. Grant that we,  
who hail him with joy  
as our Redeemer, may also behold him without fear  
when he comes to be our Judge;  
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

*What Hope! An Eden Prophesied* | **CW 304**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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