

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 7, 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 2 CHRIST IS COMING! REPENT

Today is the second 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.

Today, we hear the call: **Repent.** **Repent** was the message of the all the Old Testament prophets as they called God’s people back to His Word and the promise that the Savior would day come. **Repent** was the message St. John the Baptizer used to prepare the people of Israel for the good news the Savior and His Kingdom of peace had arrived in the person of Jesus Christ. **Repent** would be the very same message that Jesus and His Apostles would proclaim.

In its most basic and often used form in Scripture **Repentance** has two parts. **Repent** means to believe that we are sinners who deserve God’s judgment and cannot save ourselves. **Repent** also means to believe that God has saved us freely through the redeeming work of Jesus’ perfect life, innocent death and resurrection. Such **repentance** that trusts in Christ alone as the Savior will, just like a living tree, produce fruit (good works) that flow from and are evidence of saving faith.

**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. Monica Wintrone  
Projection Slides ..... Amy Johnson

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

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

**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.<sup>1</sup>**

## 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> The confession of sins gives voice to our repentance. Note how we confess that all we have is sin and evil and deserve only God's judgment. Note how our plea for forgiveness is not found in ourselves, but only in the Lord's goodness in sending Jesus. Note how the absolution (pronouncement of forgiveness) is based on the facts of what Jesus has done for us.

## 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*)

John the Baptist called out in the wilderness: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

**"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."** (*Matthew 3:2,3*)

Christ himself has given us the power for repentance. By his holy life and innocent death he has conquered Satan and sin and is able to help us when we are tempted. (*Hebrews 2:18*)

**He reigns in our lives with his grace and bring us to eternal life.** (*Romans 5:21*)

Let us pray.

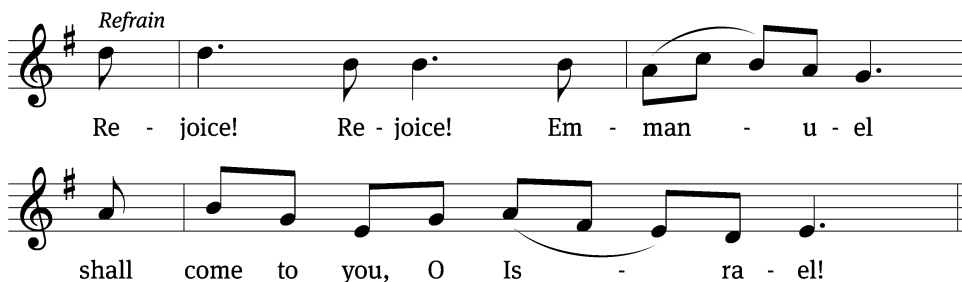
Almighty God, your holy Word has called us to repent of sin and walk in your path of righteousness. For the sake of Jesus Christ, you have not quickly judged the world for sin, but have given all a time of grace, and a call to turn from evil ways. By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts to you. Make us grow in our obedience to your Word. In Jesus, you have revealed to us your holy love. Move us to love one another as he has loved us, and to serve one another as if we were serving you; 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  
4 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

## Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,  
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will 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.

<sup>3</sup>He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the poor,  
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

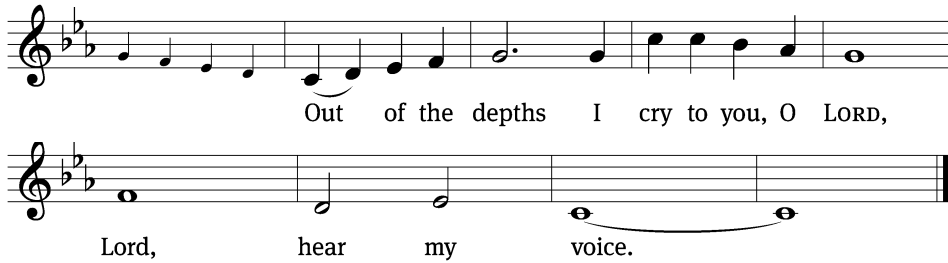
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## Psalm 130

### Refrain



### Tone



Out / of the depths  
I / cry to you, O LORD;  
Lord, / hear my voice.  
Listen closely as I / call on you for help.

LORD, if you kept / track of sins,  
O / Lord, then who could stand?  
But with you there is for- / givenness,  
in order / that you may be feared. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my / soul waits,  
and in his / word I put my hope.  
More than watchers wait for / morning  
my / soul waits for the Lord.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,  
for with the / LORD is faithful love;  
with him is complete re- / demption.  
He will redeem Israel from the / guilt of all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the / Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be for- / ever. Amen. *Refrain***

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## SECOND READING

## Romans 15:4–13

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. <sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.

<sup>10</sup>And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

<sup>11</sup>And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION<sup>2</sup>

Alleluia. Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

**A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. Alleluia.**

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<sup>2</sup> Today's acclamation verse is Luke 3:4,6. John's ministry was foretold 700 years in advance through Isaiah as one of the many signs to prove the true Savior (Messiah) had arrived.



## GOSPEL

## Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying,  
<sup>2</sup>“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” <sup>3</sup>Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. <sup>6</sup>They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup>Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup>Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | CW 316*

## SERMON

**Matthew 3:1-12**

Back to Basics

*Please stand*

**Of Repentance they<sup>3</sup> teach that for those who have fallen after Baptism there is forgiveness of sins whenever they are brought to repentance and that the Church ought to impart absolution to those who return to repentance. Now, properly speaking, repentance consists of these two parts:**

**One is contrition, that is, terrors that strike the conscience when sin is recognized; The other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that sins are forgiven on account of Christ, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors.**

**Thereupon good works, which are the fruit of repentance, should follow, as John says in Matthew 3: “Bear fruit worthy of repentance.”**

*Please be seated*

## **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*

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<sup>3</sup> That is, the teachers and preachers of the Reformation. They would eventually be called ‘Lutherans,’ but would have more likely referred to themselves as ‘Evangelical’, which means ‘those who proclaim the gospel.’

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

**Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss.

**May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

*Special Intercessions*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**PRAYER<sup>4</sup>**

O Lord, purify our consciences by your presence in Word and Sacrament, that when your Son, our Lord comes, he may find in us a place prepared for himself; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

**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.**

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<sup>4</sup> This Advent prayer is modified from an ancient prayer from 5-6<sup>th</sup> century.

# CLOSING HYMN

## *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* | CW 308



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O \_\_\_\_ Chris - tians, you bring \_\_\_\_ good ti - dings; get  
 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King.  
 na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The \_\_\_\_ val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like the flow'rs of the field they \_\_\_\_ per - ish; like  
 He shall feed his \_\_\_\_ flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and \_\_\_\_ pomp of  
 lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our \_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_ may go!  
 na - tions shall \_\_\_\_ pass like a dream \_\_\_\_ a - way.  
 lead them, and \_\_\_\_ bring them \_\_\_\_ safe to his fold.

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Text: Public domain

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