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**ADVENT**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

11250 N. MICHIGAN ROAD, ZIONSVILLE, IN  
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# Visitors & Guests

Thank you for attending! Please introduce yourself to the Pastors or Elders, fill out our Visitor Card (*turn in for additional resources*) and assist us in recording church attendance in the Record of Fellowship book in the pews. We hope you join us again soon.

**LARGE PRINT HYMNALS & BULLETINS** are located in the back center pews as you enter.

## The Sacrament of the Altar

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church teaches and believes that through the body and blood of Jesus Christ, offered under bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, God gives to His children the forgiveness of sins. Since this is a sacred meal, Advent distributes the Lord's Supper to communicants who have been prepared to receive it.

**If communing**, please prepare using pp. 308, 329-330 found in the front of our Hymnal.

- **If you are a member at an LCMS parish**, please speak with one of our pastors beforehand so that they may greet you and inform you accordingly regarding our practice.
- **If you are a visitor** and have not been confirmed or hold to a confession of faith that differs from Advent and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, please refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper. You may come forward during Distribution to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.
- **Distribution** - If communing, at the appropriate time in the Divine Service, please approach the altar via the center aisle. When directed to a position at the rail, bow and kneel without waiting (you may also stand as needed). After you receive the Sacrament (or blessing), please stand, bow, and return to your pew via the side aisle. The final blessing will be made at the end of the distribution and the covering of the elements.

### Please see an Usher for help locating:

- Hearing assistive devices for use during worship are available in the Narthex.
- Wheelchairs are available upon request.
- Restrooms are located to the left of the Narthex as you enter the church.
- The Nursery and Cry Room provide quiet places for active or crying children and are equipped to broadcast our services.

**Coffee & Donuts** served every Sunday between the early and late service in the Fellowship Hall.

**Join us for Sunday School & Bible Study Sunday morning** in the Fellowship Hall. We begin at 9:35am and conclude at 10:30am.

## Advent Announcements

To receive **Advent Announcements via email** every Friday, sign up on our website **[www.adventlutheran.org](http://www.adventlutheran.org)** on our "Contact Us" page Or email [info@adventlutheran.org](mailto:info@adventlutheran.org)

## Worship Broadcasts

**Sunday services & Bible Class are streamed online on YouTube.**

To view the service or Bible Study online, visit our homepage at **[www.adventlutheran.org](http://www.adventlutheran.org)** and click on the YouTube link. Videos are streamed "live" or watch them any time.

## The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer is included on the last two pages of this bulletin.

### Flower Calendar

*Thank you to Advent Church & School for sponsoring this weeks' flowers.*

To sponsor upcoming flowers:

Make out a check to Advent Lutheran Church with the memo of "Altar Flowers" or "Flowers" and claim the date on the Flower Calendar hanging in the hallway near the library!

Single Side- \$30 OR Both Sides- \$60

*\*Checks may be dropped off to the office or mailed in.*



# CHRISTMAS DAY

## Today's Readings:

Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

Titus 3:4-7

John 1:1-18

## *The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh*

Heaven and earth rejoice on this night because the glory of the Triune God is manifested in the human birth of “our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). In Him, the Father’s grace, mercy and peace rest upon the world. The silence of death is broken by this “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10). And all we who have gone astray like lost and wandering sheep, who have “walked in the darkness” of doubt and fear and sinful unbelief, behold “a great light” in the nativity of Christ (Is. 9:2). In Him “the grace of God has appeared” (Titus 2:11). For this Child of Mary who is born for us, this dear Son of God who is given to us, will bear the burden of our sin and death in His own body on the cross. He thereby establishes a government of peace, “with justice and with righteousness,” which shall have no end; not by any work of man, but “the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this” (Is. 9:7).



## We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

LSB 382

In the late Middle Ages, just before the Reformation, the experience of ordinary Christians was quite different from today. They knew that they were supposed to go to worship and that holy things happened there, but most of the service was sung or spoken in Latin, not in the language of the people. While many of the words were the same as we use in the liturgy today, many worshipers could not understand them.

At that time, there were just three German songs that were allowed to be sung by the people in worship. At Easter they could sing “Christ Is Arisen” (LSB 459). At Pentecost they were allowed to sing a verse that later expanded into “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” (768). And at Christmas they sang a verse that eventually became the first stanza of this hymn. This verse was sung right before the reading of the Christmas Gospel. Martin Luther used this popular religious song and the other six stanzas. It was likely sung for the first time in 1523. “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth” thus became the first Christmas song of the Reformation, and began the Protestant heritage of Christmas songs and carols.

## In His Service Today:

**P** Rev. Aaron Schultz, Assoc. Pastor & Headmaster

**A** Rev. Marcus Mackay, Sr. Pastor

Organist/Kantor: Phil Lehman

Audio/Visual: Marc Mackay

## 10:00 am

Greeter:

OPEN

Altar Guild:

Jena Mackay, Nancy Bussing

Ushers:

Larry Irving, Don Thompson

Elder:

Jon Silverberg



CHURCH



CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

### -GIVE NOW-

Open your camera app, point your phone at the QR Code, click the pop-up and sign up!

### -VOLUNTEER-

Email the main office at [info@adventlutheran.org](mailto:info@adventlutheran.org) for more details!



PRESCHOOL



SCHOOL



# CHRISTMAS DAY

*Divine Service starts on page 184 in the front of the hymnal.*

## Prelude & Tolling of Bells

*Stand*

### Processional Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**LSB 379**

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels:

*Refrain O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786  
Text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

**LSB 184**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

***Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6***



**A** For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

- C** and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
- A** Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\*  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
- C** The Lord has made known his sal- | vation;\*  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
- A** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.
- C** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;\*  
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!  
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 forever. | Amen.
- A** For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
- C** and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\*  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 187*

- P** Glory be to God on high:  
**C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.  
**P** Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38*

<sup>17</sup>In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.  
<sup>18</sup>Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. <sup>19</sup>And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>20</sup>He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. <sup>21</sup>And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

<sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23*

**C** Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.

This is the LORD's | doing;\*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

## Epistle Reading

*Titus 3:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Alleluia & Verse

*Psalm 95:1a, 6b*



**A** A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord.

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1–18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of  
the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under  
Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to  
judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and  
apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come.  
Amen.

## Hymn of the Day: *We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth*

*LSB 382*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;<br>Clothed in flesh You came to earth.<br>The virgin bears a sinless boy<br>And all the angels sing for joy.<br>Alleluia! | He makes us children of the light.<br>Alleluia!   |
| 2 Now in the manger we may see<br>God's Son from eternity,<br>The gift from God's eternal throne<br>Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.<br>Alleluia!        | 5 The very Son of God sublime<br>Entered into earthly time<br>To lead us from this world of cares<br>To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.<br>Alleluia!                  |
| 3 The virgin Mary's lullaby<br>Calms the infant Lord Most High.<br>Upon her lap content is He<br>Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.<br>Alleluia!               | 6 In poverty He came to earth<br>Showing mercy by His birth;<br>He makes us rich in heav'nly ways<br>As we, like angels, sing His praise.<br>Alleluia!                  |
| 4 The Light Eternal, breaking through,<br>Made the world to gleam anew;<br>His beams have pierced the core of night,   | 7 All this for us our God has done<br>Granting love through His own Son.<br>Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice<br>And sing His praise with endless voice.<br>Alleluia! |

Text (st. 1): German, c. 1380; (sts. 1, 6): tr. Gregory J. Wiemar, 1946; (sts. 2-7): Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 2, 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (sts. 3, 5, 7): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006 Text (sts. 1, 3, 5-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 2, 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017163

## Sermon

*Stand*

### Offertory

*LSB 192*

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

*Sit*

### Offering

## Prayer of the Church

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

*LSB 194*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.  
**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### Sanctus

*LSB 195*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

#### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 196*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>C</b> Our Father who art in heaven,<br>hallowed be Thy name,<br>Thy kingdom come,<br>Thy will be done on earth as it is<br>in heaven;<br>give us this day our daily bread; | and forgive us our trespasses as<br>we forgive those who trespass<br>against us;<br>and lead us not into temptation,<br>but deliver us from evil.<br>For Thine is the kingdom and the<br>power and the glory forever and<br>ever. Amen. |
|---|---|

#### The Words of Our Lord

*LSB 197*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

#### Agnus Dei

*LSB 198*

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.  
Amen.



**Distribution Hymn: *The Infant Priest Was Holy Born*****LSB 624**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 The infant Priest was holy born<br>For us unholy and forlorn;<br>From fleshly temple forth came He,<br>Anointed from eternity.                  | He leads us to the Holy Place<br>Within the veil, before God's face.   |
| 2 This great High Priest in human flesh<br>Was icon of God's righteousness.<br>His hallowed touch brought sanctity;<br>His hand removed impurity. | 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,<br>As at the rail on bended knee<br>Our hungry mouths from Him receive<br>The bread of immortality.                 |
| 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came<br>To God's own altar lit with flame;<br>While weeping angels hid their eyes,<br>This Priest became a sacrifice.   | 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,<br>A priestly food and priestly meat;<br>On sin-parched lips the chalice pours<br>His quenching blood that life restores. |
| 4 But death would not the victor be<br>Of Him who hung upon the tree.   | 7 With cherubim and seraphim<br>Our voices join the endless hymn,<br>And "Holy, holy, holy" sing<br>To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.            |

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird.**Distribution Hymn: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*****LSB 384**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Of the Father's love begotten<br>Ere the worlds began to be,<br>He is Alpha and Omega,<br>He the source, the ending He,<br>Of the things that are, that have been,<br>And that future years shall see<br>Evermore and evermore.        | Now He shines, the long-expected;<br>Let creation praise its Lord<br>Evermore and evermore.  |
| 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,<br>When the virgin, full of grace,<br>By the Holy Ghost conceiving,<br>Bore the Savior of our race,<br>And the babe, the world's Redeemer,<br>First revealed His sacred face<br>Evermore and evermore. | 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;<br>Angel hosts, His praises sing.<br>Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him<br>And extol our God and King.<br>Let no tongue on earth be silent,<br>Ev'ry voice in concert ring<br>Evermore and evermore. |
| 3 This is He whom seers in old time<br>Chanted of with one accord,<br>Whom the voices of the prophets<br>Promised in their faithful word.  | △5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,<br>And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee<br>Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving<br>And unending praises be,<br>Honor, glory, and dominion,<br>And eternal victory<br>Evermore and evermore. Amen.         |

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-77 Text: Public domain**Distribution Hymn: *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*****LSB 386**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,<br>Now raise to heav'n our voice;<br>He from whom joy streameth<br>Poor in a manger lies;<br>Not so brightly beameth<br>The sun in yonder skies.<br>Thou my Savior art!<br>Thou my Savior art! | 3 Now through His Son doth shine<br>The Father's grace divine.<br>Death was reigning o'er us<br>Through sin and vanity<br>Till He opened for us<br>A bright eternity.<br>May we praise Him there!<br>May we praise Him there!               |
| 2 Come from on high to me;<br>I cannot rise to Thee.<br>Cheer my wearied spirit,<br>O pure and holy Child;<br>Through Thy grace and merit,<br>Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,<br>Draw me unto Thee!<br>Draw me unto Thee!     | 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?<br>Where but on heav'nly ground?<br>Where the angels singing<br>With all His saints unite,<br>Sweetest praises bringing<br>In heav'nly joy and light.<br>Oh, that we were there!<br>Oh, that we were there! |

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt. Text: Public domain

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace and with great joy, your sins are forgiven.
- C** **Amen.**

**Nunc Dimittis**

**LSB 199**

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Thanksgiving**

**LSB 200**

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

**Post-Communion Collect**

- A** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**

**Benedicamus**

**LSB 202**

- A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

**Recessional Hymn: *Joy to the World***

**LSB 387**

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br>Let earth receive her King;<br>Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room<br>And heav'n and nature sing,<br>And heav'n and nature sing,<br>And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.      | 3 | No more let sins and sorrows grow<br>Nor thorns infest the ground;<br>He comes to make His blessings flow<br>Far as the curse is found,<br>Far as the curse is found,<br>Far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2 | Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br>Let men their songs employ,<br>While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat the sounding joy,<br>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4 | He rules the world with truth and grace<br>And makes the nations prove<br>The glories of His righteousness<br>And wonders of His love,<br>And wonders of His love,<br>And wonders, wonders of His love.     |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748Text: Public domain

**Postlude**

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer

**Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 21, 2025**

**Catechism:** Creed—Second Article

**Verse of the week:** **John 1:14** *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Daily Prayer LSB pp 294-298** Pray and confess out loud **Daily Prayer – For Individuals and Families** as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Use the one appropriate for the time of day your devotion takes place. Include the Apostles Creed before The Lord's Prayer if the setting you regularly use does not include it so as to confess it daily. Learn by heart the catechism, and hymn of the week.

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
SUN	<b>Advent 4: Christ's Birth Foretold to Joseph—Matt. 1:18-25</b>	
MON	<b>St. Thomas, Apostle—John 20:24-29</b>	
TUE	Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 7:10-14
WED	David's Son Will Build the House of the Lord—2 Samuel 7:1-16	Isaiah 52:7-10
THU	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>Titus 2:11-14</b>
FRI	<b>The Word Became Flesh—John 1:1-18</b>	<b>Hebrews 1:1-12</b>
SAT	<b>St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8—7:60</b>	<b>Matthew 23:34-39</b>
	<b>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: John 21:20-25</b>	<b>1 John 1:1—2:2</b>
Lectionary Readings		<b>Deut. 18:15-19; Psalm 111; Phil. 4:4-7; John 1:19-28</b>

**Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9** – Gracious and merciful Lord, we look to You for remission of our sins in Jesus, who speaks Your faithful words and performs the mighty work of our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.

**Hymn of the Week: LSB 357 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

The tune can be found on the web. Search “**VENI EMMANUEL**”

Daily Psalms	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Morning	89	91	92	95, 96	98	101	103
Evening	90	93	94	97	100	102	104

**Weekly Collect** – Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sun:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

**Mon:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

**Tue:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and the despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

**Wed:** *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly school, our church schools, and seminaries.*

**Thu:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's body and blood.*

**Fri:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

**Sat:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival for those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

**Specific prayer requests can be found in the Advent Announcements that are emailed weekly.**

**Please contact the church office to be added to the Prayer List or to receive the email.**

# NEXT WEEK

## The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

Sunday Divine Service  
8:15am & 10:45am



### Hymns:

387, 389, 519, 378,  
938, 376, 362

### Texts:

Isaiah 11:1-5  
Psalm 89:1-8  
Galatians 4:1-7  
Luke 2:33-40

# CALENDAR

## UPCOMING

**1st Sunday After Christmas** 12/28/25  
8:15am & 10:45am Divine Service

**Epiphany (Observed)** 01/04/26  
8:15am & 10:45am Divine Service

## ALCS & Early Childhood Ed Break

*Dec. 19-Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>*

**Books & Beers-** Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>

**55+ Group-** Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

**Women's Bible Study-** Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>

## Phase III Building Expansion

<sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him, saying,  
“**Let the children come** to me, and do not hinder them,  
for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”  
-Luke 18:16



**Keep up to date on the latest information at [adventlutheran.org/expansion](http://adventlutheran.org/expansion) !**

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