



Rev. Marcus Mackay
Senior Pastor
mmackay@adventlutheran.org
317-847-7215

Rev. James Grady
Assistant Visitation Pastor
jgrady@adventlutheran.org
317-372-6289

Rev. Aaron Schultz
Headmaster & Associate Pastor
aschultz@adventlutheran.org
317-733-5679

Jen Siukola
Deaconess
jsiukola@adventlutheran.org
317-733-5473

Deb Trewartha
Early Ed. & Choir Director
dtrewartha@adventlutheran.org
317-733-5391

Phil Lehman
Kantor & Organist
plehmangsc@me.com
317-873-6318



DIVINE SERVICE *Setting Three*

Prelude & Tolling of Bells

Processional Hymn **#368**

INVOCATION **p. 184**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis

Salutation and Collect

Old Testament Reading

Anthem*

Epistle Reading

Alleluia & Verse

Holy Gospel Processional

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day **#358 st. 1-5**

SERMON

Offertory & Offering **p. 192**

Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface & Proper Preface **p. 194**

Sanctus

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei

Distribution **#360, #621 #393**

Nunc Dimittis **p. 199**

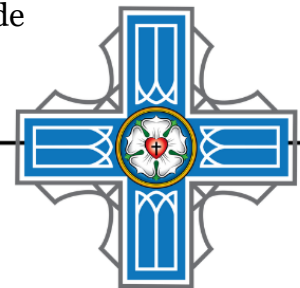
Thanksgiving & Collect

Salutation & Benedicamus

Benediction

Recessional Hymn **#358 sts 8-9 14-15**

Postlude



ADVENT

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

11250 N. MICHIGAN ROAD, ZIONSVILLE, IN
317-873-6318 | WWW.ADVENTLUTHERAN.ORG

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** on our "Contact Us" page Or email 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** 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.*

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

(Christmas Midnight)

Tonight's Readings:

Isaiah 9:2–7
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–20



The Light of Christ Shines Forth in the Darkness

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).

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

#358

Martin Luther (1483–1546) was the Augustinian friar and priest whom God used to shine the light of the Gospel upon a Church which thought that salvation came by works (including monetary indulgences). Luther published many theological writings, lectures and sermons. He also wrote hymns for the Church to sing. One of his beloved hymns (published in 1535) is “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.”

Few know that this hymn was not originally written for use in the Church’s service. It was written for Luther’s family celebration at home. The family kept the feast day both at church and in their home. There are varying accounts related to the first usage of this hymn in the Luther household. It appears that a man or boy, dressed as an angel, sang the first five stanzas, the angel’s message. Then, all the others sang stanza 6.

Differing family members sang stanzas 7–13. Everybody except the “angel” sang stanza 14. Heaven and earth combined as the “angel” joined all the others in singing the final stanza.

In His Service Tonight:

- P** Rev. Marcus Mackay, Senior Pastor
A Rev. Aaron Schultz, Headmaster & Assoc. Pastor

Kantor/Organist: Phil Lehman
Choir Director: Deb Trewartha
Audio/Visual: Matthias Mackay

11:00pm

Greeter:	OPEN
Altar Guild:	Nancy Bussing, Jena Mackay
Ushers:	Adam Heike
Elders:	Bill Bussing

SERVE



Help serve as Greeters,
Ushers & Altar Guild

TO SERVE OR GIVE TO ADVENT CHURCH AND SCHOOL SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODES

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

OR

email info@adventlutheran.org to sign-up
with the office manager!

GIVE



Donation Link for Church
& School online giving



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

(Christmas Midnight)

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

Prelude & Tolling of Bells

Stand

Processional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French
Text: Public domain

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

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 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Liturgical Text



- A** When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.
- C** Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?
- A** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his a- | noointed.
- C** He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
- A** Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
- C** “As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”
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** When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

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 O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“I Wonder As I Wander”

J.J. Niles and L.H. Horton, G. Schirmer, 1944

Soloist: Izzy Casciani

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for the die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for the die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia & Verse

Psalm 95:1a, 6b



Al-le-lu - ia! ——— Al-le-lu - ia! ——— Al-le-lu - ia!

A Oh come, let us sing | to the Lord. *

Let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our |Maker!

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with

Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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 ✠ of the world to come.
Amen.

Hymn of the Day

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1–5

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;

- He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were
made."

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

Stand

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:

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

- P** 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.
C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and 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.

☩ 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.

Sit

Distribution Hymn

All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360

- 1 All my heart again rejoices
As I hear
Far and near
Sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing
Till the air
Ev’rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.
- 2 Hear! The Conqueror has spoken:
“Now the foe,
Sin and woe,
Death and hell are broken!”
God is man, man to deliver,
And the Son
Now is one
With our blood forever.
- 3 Should we fear our God’s displeasure,
Who, to save,
Freely gave
His most precious treasure?
To redeem us He has given
His own Son
From the throne
Of His might in heaven.

- 4 See the Lamb, our sin once taking
To the cross,
Suff’ring loss,
Full atonement making.
For our life His own He tenders,
And His grace
All our race
Fit for glory renders.
- 5 Softly from His lowly manger
Jesus calls
One and all,
“You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed;
All you need
I will surely give you.”
- 6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all,
Great and small,
Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high
In that joy
Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Distribution Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav’nly food.

- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Distribution Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393

- 1 Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.

- Swiftly winging,
Angels singing,
Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory,
Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,

Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.; Polish 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 & Benediction

LSB 202

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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 *sts. 8–9, 14–15*

- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain.

Postlude

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
Week of **December 24, 2023**

Review or learn by heart from Luther's Small Catechism: Creed—The Second Article of the Creed and Explanation

Verse of the week: Titus 3:4-5a When the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.

Daily Prayer LSB p. 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	Advent 4: Mary Visits Elizabeth—Luke 1:39-56	Titus 2:11-14
MON	Christmas Day: The Word Became Flesh—John 1:1-18	Titus 3:4-7
TUE	St. Stephen, Martyr: Acts 6:8—7:60	Matthew 23:34-39
WED	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: John 21:20-25	1 John 1:1—2:2
THU	Holy Innocents, Martyrs: Matthew 2:13-18	Jeremiah 31:10-17
FRI	The Rest in Returning to the Lord—Isaiah 30:8-17	Romans 8:31b-39
SAT	The Spirit of the Lord Shall Rest Upon Him—Isaiah 11:1-5	Galatians 4:1-7
SUN Readings		Deut. 18:15-19; Psalm 111; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 1:39-56

Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9

Gracious and merciful Lord, we look to You for the 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	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101
Evening	87	90	93	94	97	99	102

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.

Daily Themes for Prayer

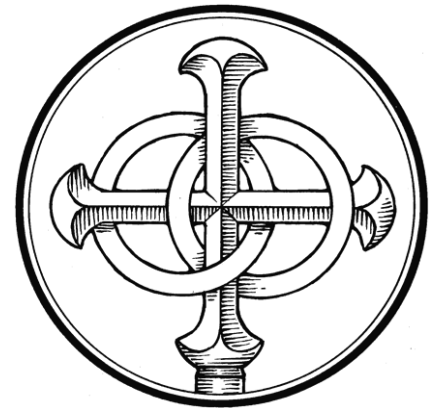
- SUNDAY:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- MONDAY:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- TUESDAY:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and the despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- WEDNESDAY:** *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.*
- THURSDAY:** *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.*
- FRIDAY:** *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.*
- SATURDAY:** *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 may now be found in the Advent Announcements that are emailed weekly to all. Please contact the church office to be added to the Prayers List.

NEXT WEEK

**First Sunday after
Christmas**

December 31, 2023



SUNDAY

8:15am Divine Service

9:45am Bible Study

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45am Divine Service

Hymns:

387, 389, 519 – 378 – 939, 362

Phase III Building Expansion

¹⁶But 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 !

Acknowledgments: Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Divine Service, from the Lutheran Service Book. Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-735768. All rights reserved & CPH, LSB Hymn License #110017163. All rights reserved. Bulletin cover and Higher Things Artwork by Ed Riojas, used by permission.