

Our Mission

“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”
Second Sunday of Advent – Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.
December 7, 2025

Introduction

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord’s table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Prelude

“Rejoice, Rejoice” (by Mokelbust)

Jubilate; Gene Fougner, director

GATHERING

Welcome

P: This is the day that the Lord has made:

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Invocation

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

L: This morning we light two candles. The first candle which reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our **hope** lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The second candle radiates God’s perfect **peace** to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

Song:

“He Came Down” (vs. 1 & 2)

ELW 253

He came down that we may have hope,
he came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope,
Hallelujah forever more.

He came down that we may have peace,
he came down that we may have peace
he came down that we may have peace,
Hallelujah forever more.

Prayer

L: Gracious God, our souls long for the peace that only you can provide. We confess that, all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Children’s Message

God Spotting

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for Reflection

L: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (all verses)

ELW 254

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king:
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

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P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we
worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

Jubilate, Gene Fougner Director

"Fairest Lord Jesus" (by Randy/Fougner)

Second Reading:

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to . . .

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

"Second Chances"

Pastor Tricia Lowe

Hymn of the Day

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

ELW 249

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste
away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

L: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. Keep safe those in war-torn countries such as Congo, Ethiopia, Gaza and Israel, Myanmar, Sudan, and Ukraine. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or illness. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures or in recovery. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Please take this time to offer any other intercessions, either aloud or in your heart.

L: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace *(Remember to ask for consent)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring” (vs, 1 & 2)

ELW 691

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought but only as were able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.

Offering Prayer

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy “sing”

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Joined together by the Spirit we share the words that Jesus taught us:

C: (sing) 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion:

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Lamb of God

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Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

"All Earth is Hopeful" (all versus)

ELW 266

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the
labor of people who struggle to see how
God's truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she
conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost
here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All
clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our
world; he is present, in neighbors we see our
Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Prayer after Communion

P: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Announcements

Sending Blessing:

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the shadows, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
 Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
 Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
 Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
 Your king, yet every nation its tribute too may bring.
 All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
 Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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10:15 FORUM TODAY! The Inclusivity Team welcomes Manuel Lucero from the Museum of Indigenous People in Prescott. Join us in the Fellowship Hall between services. He will begin with prayer and will be available for conversation and questions.

Christmas Adopt-a-Family Angel Tree – All angel tags are gone. **Wrapped gifts are due back by Friday, December 19th.** Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus as we provide joy to these needy families in our area. If you have any questions, contact Jean Kiser at 928-777-8961.

NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held on today **December 7 at 3:00 pm.** If you are interested in joining Emmanuel, please let Pastor Tricia or Janet Bleifer (562-322-7355) know.

CHURCH OFFICE IS STAFFED Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. except Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Please call 928-772-4135 about room use availability.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of December is **Arizona Crisis Team. (ACT)** is a non-profit organization that provides emotional, practical and resource assistance to citizens who have been impacted by any type of crisis - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The purpose of providing crisis intervention is to allow the victim to begin regaining the control that was lost as a result of their victimization. These services are free of charge and offered with dignity and respect for individual and cultural differences.

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As a Congregation, we pray for God's guidance on our journey of service to our membership, our community, and our world. Pray for Pastor Tricia, the Church Council, and the Ministry Leadership. The church office reviews this list monthly. Please call if your prayer concern is removed earlier than you wish.

Please keep the following in your prayers during this week:

Members

Carole Rebholz
Cheryl & Kevin Miller
Colleen Bradley
Deborah Delmastro
Donna Morgan
Doris & Roger MacGregor

Hill Barrington
Inge Scholl
Irene Clute
Jackie Poling
Julie Doering
Mary Watts

Nancy Renner
Ramona Walker
Ron Eide
Ryan Intlekofer
Sue Smith

Our Family Members in Military and Deployed

Anne Northrup

Family Members and Friends

Barbara Freeland – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
& Emmanuel
Bev Hart – friend of Sheila Smilgis
Bob Renner – husband of Nancy Renner
Bonnie – friend of Violet Lowe
Brett Adams – grandson of Isabel Benell
Carmen Escareno – daughter-in-law of Clara
Farmer
Cassie Goats – sister-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Curt Harris – friend of Kimberly Goats
Dan & Carol Cwach – friends of Emmanuel
Douglas – son of Inge Scholl
Dot Camero – cousin of Wendy Woolley
Easton, friend of Georgianna Farness
Ellie – granddaughter of Mary Wakimoto
Hazel Maldonado – friend of Rosemary Hellene
Heather White – daughter of Michael & Karen
Johnson

Jen Nelson – friend of Michelle Schreur
Jerry Oium – friend of Jackie Poling
Jim – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
Katy Rost – cousin of Kimberly Goats
Kristin Moraga – daughter of Marcy Pfitzer
Lori St Louis – daughter of Jackie Poling
Michael Green – son-in-law of Mary Jensen
Miranda Rebholz – granddaughter of Jim &
Carole Rebholz
Molly Aulman – friend of Woolley's & Northrup's
Roger Hersey – father of Leigh Quinn
Rose Streeter – friend of Hal & Mai Vogelaar
Sally Kozuch – sister of Ellen Rosfeld
Sam Crifasi – friend of Larry Mahler
Shirley Bowman – wife of Wayne Stithem
Wayne Stithem – friend of Emmanuel
Wilma – friend of Anita Wagner
William Bayle – brother-in-law of Phyllis Pohlman

NEXT INTERFAITH MEAL is December 12. If you would like to help, please give the church office a call. Food costs are continuing to go up, if you have a Thrivent Action Card you would like to donate, it would be very much appreciated. Each member is allocated two \$250.00 cards per year. We are now looking for cards for the rest of the 2026 year.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets each Tuesday at 10:00 am on zoom or in person. They are reading "Psalms" by Deitrich Bonhoeffer, contact Pr. Tricia for more information

WEDNESDAY 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY - This study meets in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Larry Gordon and retired Pastor Hal Vogelaar.

THURSDAY 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY meets at Rebholz's. Come at 6:30 for dessert.

GRIEF GROUP meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm. Next meeting is December 11.