

# Advent Midweek & Blue Christmas Service

December 17, 2025 6:45 pm



**FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY**  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Rev. Drew McCaffery, Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.



All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

## Prelude

### Gathering Litany

**P** *Blessed be God, the eternal ✠ One-in-Three, who was, and is, and is to come.*

**C** **Blessed be God forever and ever.**

**P** *As the night grows longer, and the shadows settle in,*

**C** **we ponder your marvelous designing.**

**P** *When our hearts are wintering, weary with grief and woe,*

**C** **we ponder and seek your wisdom beyond our understanding.**

**P** *In each moment fleeting, each fragile life beholding, in each gift of your bestowing,*

**C** **we ponder and trust your promises fully.**

**P** *Come, O Christ, and set us free.*

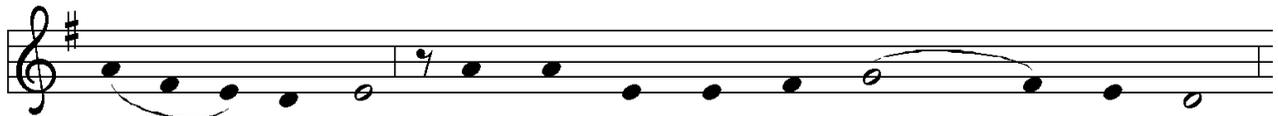
**C** **Come, Emmanuel, bring in your reign of justice and peace.**

**P** *We wait for a new heaven and a new earth,*

**C** **where righteousness is at home.**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**P** *The Lord be with you*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Let us pray. O God, majestic and mysterious:*

**C** **Morning and evening, summer and winter, each beginning and every ending is within your great design. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows; make us to marvel at your wisdom and to trust your loving care for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. Amen**

**P** *A Reading from Isaiah. <sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain  
and spreads them like a tent to live in,  
<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.  
<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.  
<sup>25</sup> To whom, then, will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and assert, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.*

<sup>29</sup> *He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.*  
<sup>30</sup> *Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,*  
<sup>31</sup> *but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.*

**P** *Word of God, Word of Life!*

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

**Hymn of Prayer**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

No. 751

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are:
   
 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
   
 OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*
  
 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
   
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

*As the hymn is sung, you are invited to come forward and light a candle in prayer and place in the sand as a prayer to God, this season. We hope this is a holy time for you as you feel God's presence surround you, your family, and/or your friends who may feel this is a difficult holiday season. We will repeat the song until everyone has had an opportunity to light a candle.*

## A Prayer of Healing

**P** *Creator of the stars of night, bless the long hours of this night with the warmth of your presence. Come to all who suffer in any way. Grant rest to the weary, freedom to those who are burdened, and bright hope to those who despair. Strengthen us as we await your coming once again, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**C** **Amen.**

**A** *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.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** *In your mercy,*

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** *Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.*

**C** **Amen.**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

*After sharing the peace, please be seated.*

**A** *Let us pray. Nourishing God,*

**C** **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. Amen.**

## ✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦

**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 God thanks and praise.**

**P** *In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*So today we pray, gracious God: replace the fear on our tongues with words of hope and songs of joy. As we come to this Table, pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are on the move. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are here, inviting us to the Table, nourishing our spirits, reminding us that we belong, calling us by name.*

*Instill that good news in us, for this is a joyful feast. Fear is not the loudest voice today.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*  
**C** **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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**P** *Do not fear. Come and receive what God has promised.*  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated.*

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table! Whether you are a member of this church or a visitor, the Communion celebrated here is "open" to all who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ—his true Body and his true Blood—is present for All of God's People.*

*(Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.)*

*During the distribution, the following is sung:*

**Lamb of God**

*(tune of Once in Royal David's City)*

**Lamb of God, the world Redeemer,  
Mercy to your people give.  
Lamb of God, the world's Redeemer,  
May we in your mercy live.  
Lamb of God, we all implore:  
Grant us peace forevermore**

**P** *The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you and keep you in grace from now until life everlasting.*  
**C** **Amen.**

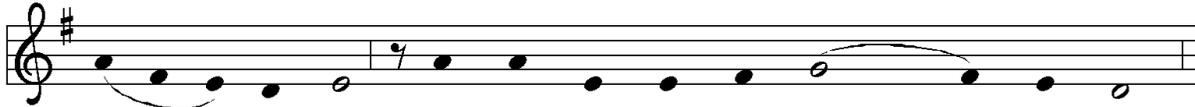
**A** *Let us pray. God our host,*  
**C** **at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.**

**P** *Beloved of God, may the blessing of the holy and undivided † Trinity rest upon you and remain with you this day and always.*  
**C** **Amen.**

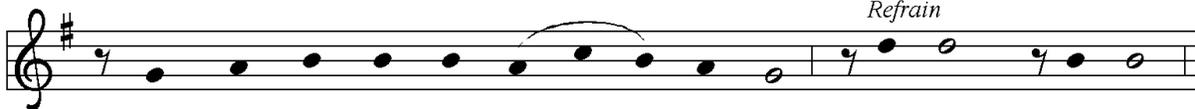
Verses 5 - 8



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

**A** *Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!*

**C** **Emmanuel is with us. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Pray for Those That Need God's Healing**

*Gail, Phyllis, Paul, Sherman, Kathy, Donna, Andrea, Al,  
Joan, Teri, Betty, Jean, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

**The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God**

*By Sallie Gartside in loving memory of Doris Mellor.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Drew McCaffery	Pr.Drew@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Sherman Canapp, OSSD Deacon	canappsherman501@gmail.com	(M) 443-904-7013
Jessie Lim, Music Director	Music@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Gina Miller, Office Manager	officemanager@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Dawn Love, Church Secretary	officesecretary@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Council President, Steve Starbuck	council_president@lcgsselca.org	
Treasurer, Linda Ruese	treasurer@lcgsselca.org	
Communications/Web/E-News	communications@lcgsselca.org	
Lois Dobart, Preschool Director	school@lcgsselca.org	(O) 410-838-8457
Web address	www.lcgsselca.org	
WiFi access	SSID: LCGS_Public	Passphrase: public@LCGS

Text and music contained in this bulletin owned by their respective copyright holder(s). Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-710797. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress License # SAS01 Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-710797 and Augsburg Fortress License # SAS012

## SERVING THIS EVENING

Assisting Minister

Cathy Busick

Ushers

Doyle McCracken