

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at 11:00 a.m.



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.



✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

Julie Young, violin

Please stand, as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *God of mercy,*

C **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P *God of might,*

C **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P *God in our midst,*

C **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

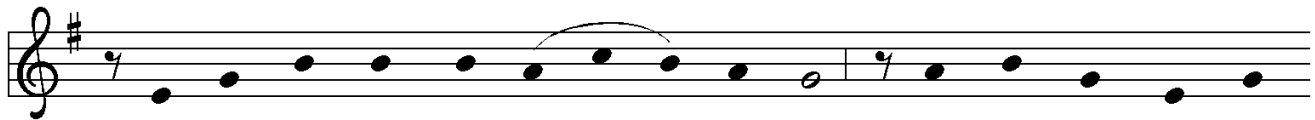
P *A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.*

C **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verses 1,5,6 & 7

No. 257



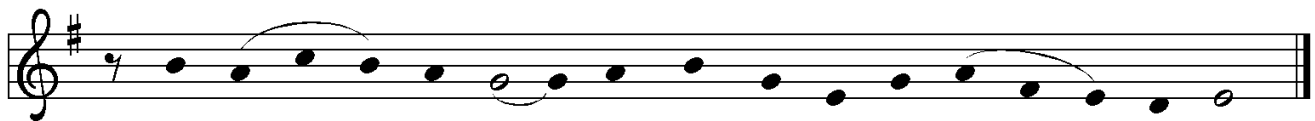
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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-joyce! Re-joyce!
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*

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

C **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise and Advent Wreath Lighting

Four candles of the Advent Wreath are lit as we sing Verse 4 of Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

A *Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.*

C **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

✦ THE WORD ✦

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

L *A reading from Micah. ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,*

*whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.*

*³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.*

*⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.*

L *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

Read responsively.

L *^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

C *⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:*

L *⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.*

C *⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*

L *⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.*

C *⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.*

- L** ⁵⁴ *You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,*
- C** ⁵⁵ **the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

- L** *A reading from first Hebrews. ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,*
*“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”*
*⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings”
(these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have
come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the
second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*
- L** *The word of the Lord.*
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able.

Creator of the Stars of Night

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,
last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be
we pray you hear us when we call.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

P *The Holy Gospel according to Luke the first chapter.*

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Be the God Israel

No. 250



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and

for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A *As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Lord, in your mercy,*

C **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.*

C **Amen.**

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

C **And also with you.**

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering & Anthem (11am)

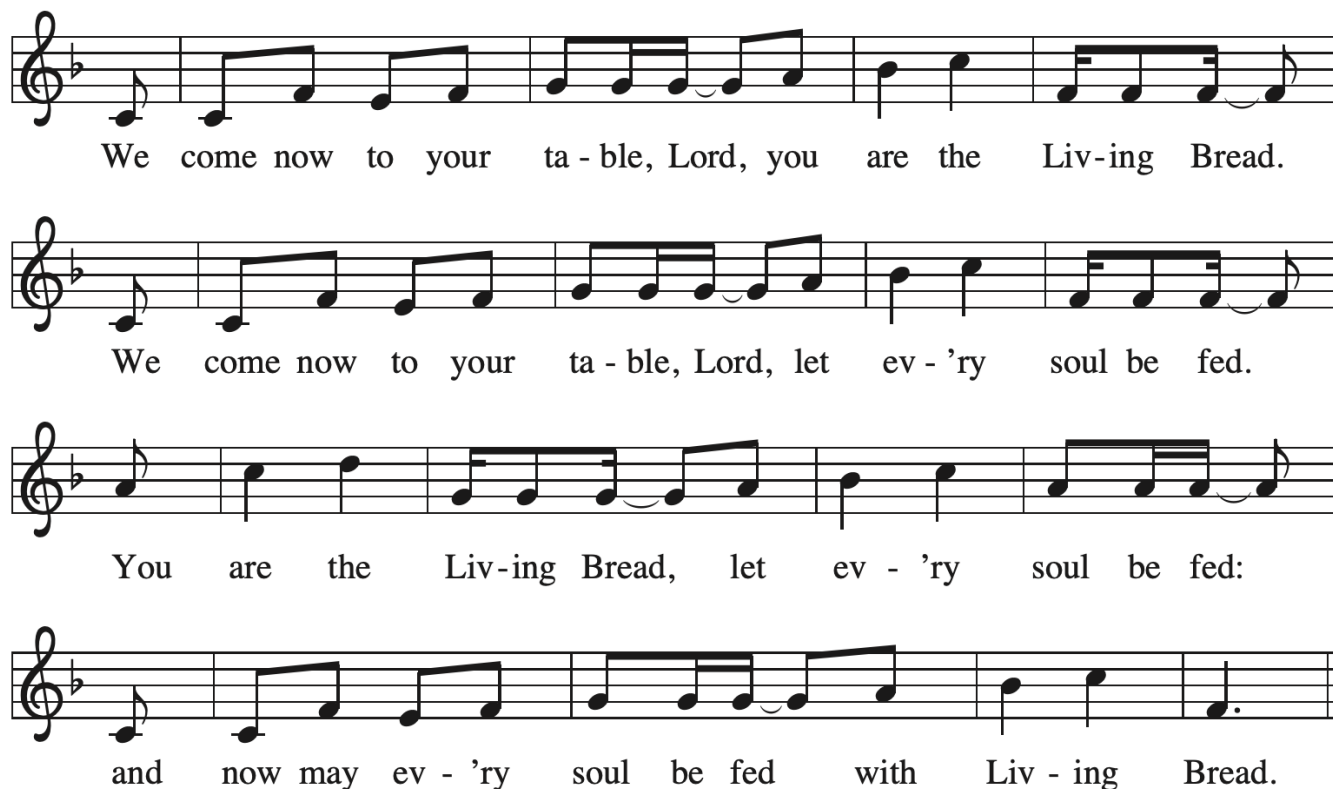
Ave Maria

Arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Chancel Choir and Julie Young, violin

Offertory

As the gifts are presented, please stand as you are able.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.

You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:

and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

A *Let us pray. Creator God,*
C **you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 our thanks and praise.**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav' n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P *Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.*

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P *Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:*

C **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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P *God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.*
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 of communion, the following is sung:

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn

People, Look East

No. 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.

P *The body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. Generous God,*

C **in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and
forever.*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

No. 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

A *Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.*

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

By Phyllis Berger in memory of Jack Berger.

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Ray, Barbara, Sue, Bob, Al, Donna, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty,
Georgeann, Jean, Nicholas, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

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SERVING TODAY

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Greeters

Assisting Minister

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Joan Serio

Communion Assistants

Lis Miller

Ushers

Doyle McCracken
Tina Zimmerman

Peggy Thomas
John Helmick

Acolytes

Livestream

Sam Miller