

Advent Midweek Worship

December 11, 2024
6:45 pm and Livestream



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** *We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.*
- C** **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.**
- P** *We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.*
- C** **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest.**
- P** *We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.*
- C** **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.**
- P** *We live in a world that is broken and hurting.*
- C** **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.**
- P** *God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.*
- C** **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Blessed be the God of 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.

Thanksgiving for Darkness & Light

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God,*

C **for in the beginning you created light and darkness, day and night, and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day you led your people into freedom. Lead us in the darkness and the light by the presence of Christ, your Word. May your Spirit be a safe cover of darkness, like the darkness of rich soil**

sprouting seeds, or the womb that cradles new hope. May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 35:3-7

P *A Reading from Isaiah. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.*

P *Word of God, Word of Life!*

C **Thanks be to God!**

Message

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day & Presentation of the Offering

Comfort, Comfort Now my People

No. 256



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Council Installation

P *Let us begin in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The following people have been elected and appointed by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these siblings will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.*

P *A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

P *You have been elected and appointed to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.*

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?*

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Please stand, as you are able.

P *People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?*

C **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P *I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.*

C **Amen.**

A *God for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, your whole creation, and the coming of the kingdom.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *In your mercy,*

C **come, Lord Jesus.**

The prayers conclude:

P *We offer you these prayers in the name of the one who was, who is, and who is to come, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

C **Amen.**

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

C **And also with you.**

After sharing the peace, please remain standing.

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 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.

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 *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.)

Communion Hymn

Blessed Be the God of 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.

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. Generous God,*
C **we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

P *May God give you strength and courage to keep watch for the One who is coming. May God give us to one another so we remember we are not alone. May God give us to the world to prepare the way for the coming kingdom. In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

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

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SERVING THIS EVENING

Assisting Minister
Ushers
Livestream

Teri King
Doyle McCracken
Gina Miller

A poster for a Blue Christmas Worship Service. The background is a soft-focus image of a lit candle with a warm glow. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font. The title 'Blue Christmas' is in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below it, 'WORSHIP SERVICE' is in smaller, bold, dark blue letters. A paragraph of text describes the service as being for those who may not be experiencing the 'Joy of the Season' but wish to have a space for comfort, prayer, and support. The phrase 'Join us' is in large, bold, white letters. Below that, the date and time 'Wednesday, Dec. 18th at 6:45pm at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd' are in bold, dark blue letters. A line of text states 'This service will also be livestreamed at www.lcgsselca.org'. At the bottom, there is a dark blue banner with a logo on the left and contact information on the right. The logo features a stylized leaf and the words 'FAITH DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITY'. The contact information includes the church's name, address, phone number, website, and a Facebook icon with the text 'Follow us on'.