

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

8:30, 11:00 a.m. & Livestream



King Tingz by Nic Faison

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

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

C **Amen.**

P *Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Courageous God,*

C **you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, Amen.**

P *Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.*

**C May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.
Amen.**

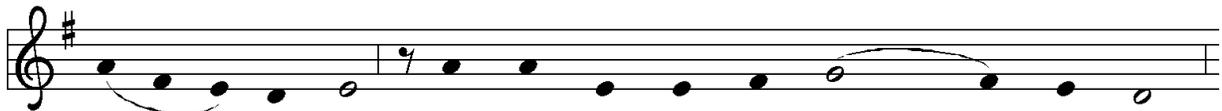
Entrance Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1,2,5, & 6

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-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*

P *In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?*
C **We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of empathy. We see love all around us.**

P *You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it. Let us join in singing Light one Candle, verse 4.*

Hymn of Light *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* No. 240
 Verse 4



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!

Please be seated.

✦ THE WORD ✦

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

A *A reading from Isaiah. ¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”*

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

A ¹ *Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.*

C ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

A ³ *Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.*

C ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

A ⁵ *You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.*

C ⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

A ⁷ *Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.*

C ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

A ¹⁸ *And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.*

C ¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading

Isaiah 41:5-10

A *A reading from Isaiah. ⁵ The coastlands have seen and are afraid; the ends of the earth tremble; they have drawn near and come.*
⁶ *Each one helps the other, saying to one another, "Take courage!"*
⁷ *The artisan encourages the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, "It is good," and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved.*
⁸ *But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;*
⁹ *you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant; I have chosen you and not cast you off";*

¹⁰ *do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*

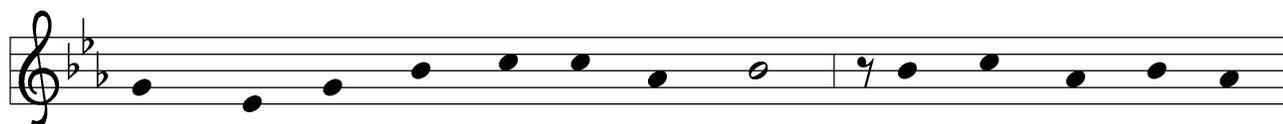
A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

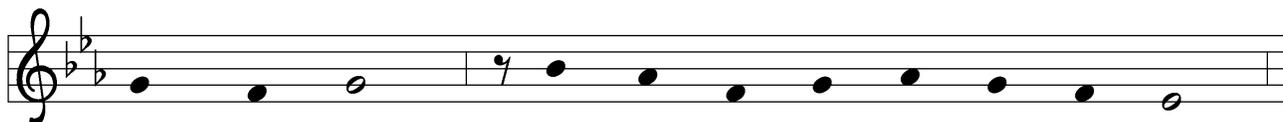
Gospel Acclamation

Creator of the Stars of the Night

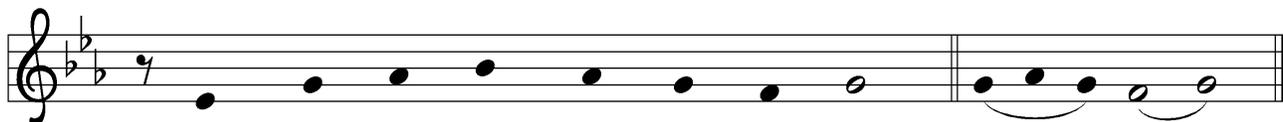


1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -

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

Matthew 1:28-25

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.*

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

P ¹⁸ *Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived*

together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

What do you fear? When you are afraid, give me your hand.

Please stand as you are able.



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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 *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 *God of grace,*
C **hear our prayer.**

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.**

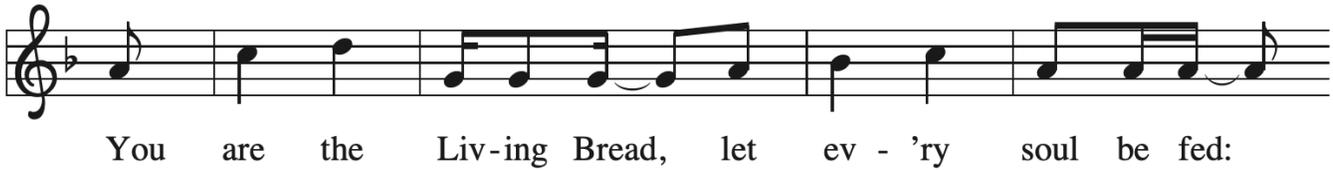
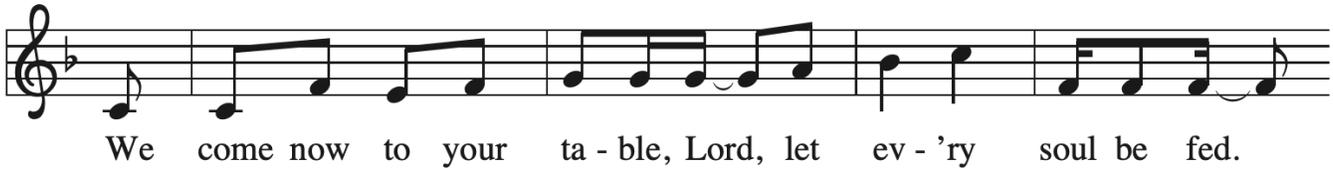
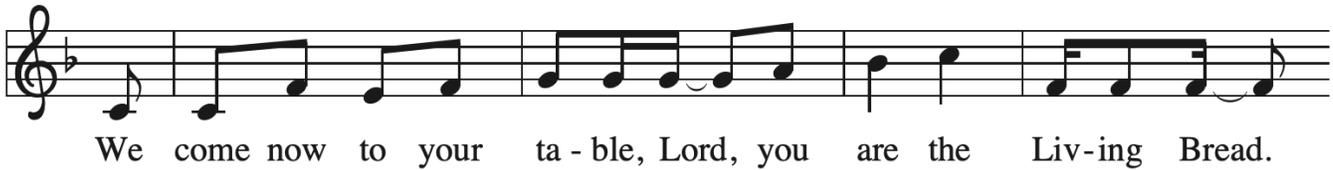
After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering & Anthem

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Marty Haugen

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



- 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 our thanks and praise.**

P *With-us God, we live in a fearful world. If we're honest, we come to this Table today with the taste of fear on our tongues. We come to this Table carrying our anxiety. We come to this Table asking for guidance. We come to this Table with all of life's "what-ifs."*

But you do not disregard our fear. You do not brush it under the rug or call us foolish. You do not ignore the realities in front of us. You do not dish out hurtful platitudes, telling us to "toughen up" or "power through."

Instead, you meet us here. You listen to our fears. You remind us that we are not alone. You surround us with people who love us. You show us where we are strong. You walk beside us. And you give us a new song to sing.

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 *Now with hope for a better tomorrow, we join our voices together to pray the prayer Jesus 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 *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 to the 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**



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.

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

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

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. Loving God,*

C **In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and † the one who journeys with today and always.*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

He Came Down

No. 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

A *Go in peace and be not afraid.*

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

Postlude

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

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

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

*by Clare and William Wood in celebration of
their 40th wedding anniversary*

and by

Phyllis Berger in memory of Jack Berger

*Last Sunday's flowers were sponsored by Sallie Gartside
in loving memory of Doris Mellor.*

Christmas Worship

at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

4 PM DEC 24 FAMILY WORSHIP

Join us as the Christmas story is told through a series of gifts that children are invited to find and unwrap with Pastor during the service. Communion and candle lighting celebrated.



7:30 PM DEC 24 WORSHIP

Celebrate the birth of Jesus through scripture and special music. Communion and candle lighting celebrated. *Service also livestreamed*



9:30 AM SUN. DEC 28 BREAKFAST CHURCH CELEBRATION HALL

One service only this Sunday

***No service Wed. Dec. 31st**



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SERVING TODAY

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister

Sallie Gartside

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Communion Assistant

Tina Zimmerman
Lis Miller

Ushers

Doyle McCracken
Sherman Canapp, OSSD

David Poust

Livestream

Joel Raedeke