

Advent Midweek Worship

December 10, 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 world is groaning in pain and suffering,*

C **we prepare and expect your appearing.**

P *Your Spirit has brought us to faith, and your Spirit sends us into mission.*

C **We prepare and engage in advocacy and justice-building.**

P *We who are baptized into Christ have been called to serve as Jesus' body in the world.*

C **We prepare and rejoice that you already dwell among us.**

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 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.

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray. Creating God,*

C **you make all things new and call us to prepare for the new heaven and the new earth breaking in all around us. Wake us from sleep; rouse us from apathy. Turn our praise into protest and our prayers into action, that your will be done and your kingdom come. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Reading

Isaiah 40:3-9

P *A Reading from the Isaiah.* ³ *A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades,
[[when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,]]
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”*

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

All Earth Is Hopeful

No. 266



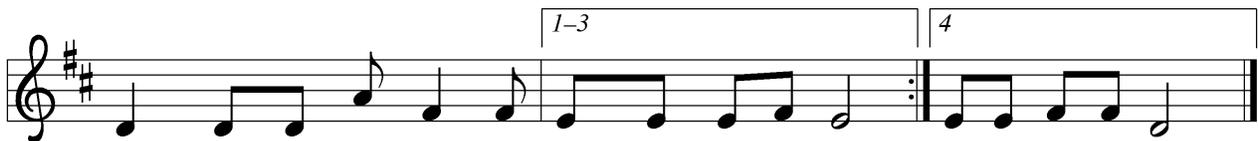
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

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.*

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 remain standing.

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.)

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. Amen.**

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.**

Sending Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

No. 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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

Blue Christmas

W O R S H I P S E R V I C E

This service is for those who may not be experiencing the “Joy of the Season” for whatever reason but wish to have a space for comfort, prayer, and support in the midst of this holiday season.

You are welcome!

Refreshments & prayer
following worship

Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6:45pm

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

This service will also be livestreamed at www.lcgselca.org



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 follow us!  lcgselca.org  410-838-8081



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SERVING THIS EVENING

Assisting Minister

Betsey Foster

Ushers

Doyle McCracken