

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025 8:30, 11:00 a.m. & Livestream



Zachariah and the Angel by Hannah Garrity

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, if you long to feel closer to God, then this time and place is a step in the right direction. For when we gather, we lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We do not hide anything from our Creator, and in that simple act, God somehow always feels closer. Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Ever-present God,*

C **we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.**

P *Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:*

C **Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.**



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

P *In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?*

C **We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.**

P *You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope. We only have to look for it. Let us join in singing verse 1 of Light one Candle to Watch for Messiah.*

Verse 1



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 2: 1-5

A *A reading from Isaiah. ¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war

any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 122

A *¹ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”*

C **² Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

A *³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;*

C **⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

A *⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.*

C **⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

A *⁷ Peace be with-in your walls and quietness with-in your towers.*

C **⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

A *⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.”*

Second Reading

Lamentations 3:55-57

A *A reading from Lamentations. ⁵⁵ I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit; ⁵⁶ you heard my plea, “Do not close your ear to my cry for help, but give me relief!” ⁵⁷ You came near when I called on you; you said, “Do not fear!”*

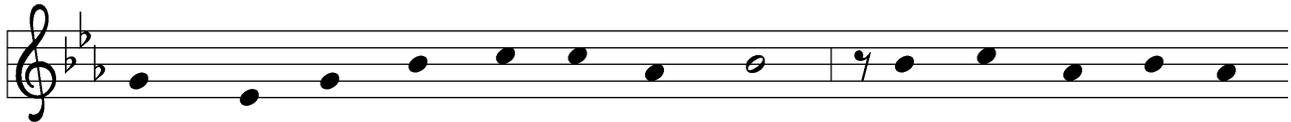
A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

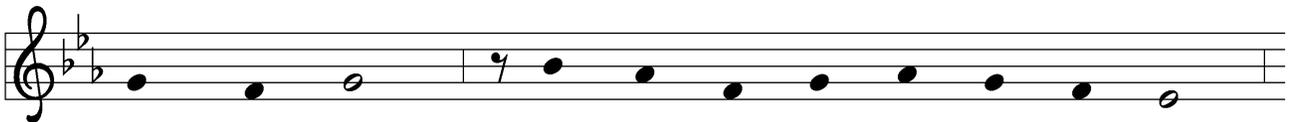
Gospel Acclamation

Creator of the Stars of Night

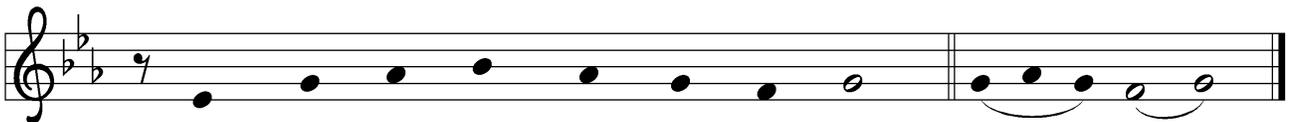


1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -

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 1:5-13

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

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

P *⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.*

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

What do you fear? In the time of Herod, we long for God to break in.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

Wait for the Lord

No. 262

Sing 4 times



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

There is a Longing Anne Quigley

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. 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 *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:*

*The Thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds to the tune of
Angels we have Heard on High*



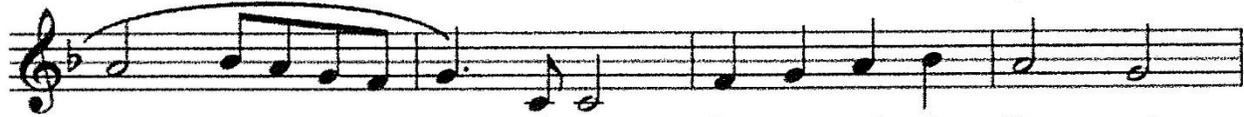
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Bles - sed is the one who came,



God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes



all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo - - -
in the bread and in the wine.



- - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

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 to pray,*

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.**

Communion Hymn

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

No. 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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.**

We are blessed to have Lay Eucharistic Ministers serving here at LCGS. On the first Sunday of each month, the bread and the wine they carry in their home communion kits are consecrated during our service. Home communion is then offered throughout the month to those who are unable to join us here. If you know of someone who would like to receive home communion, or want more information, please contact the church office.

P *Let us pray. Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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

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.

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

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God

by Dot Miller in memory of her mother, Gladys Bennett, on her birthday.

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SERVING TODAY

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Communion Assistant

Tricia Horst

Tina Zimmerman

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Livestream

Joel Raedeke