

Advent Midweek Worship

December 3, 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 *During a season of busyness and in a culture that demands immediate response,*

C **we pause and wait for your appearing.**

P *In the midst of anxiety, chaos, and fear,*

C **we pause and trust that your hand is leading us.**

P *Uncertain about the future and weighed down with worries in the present,*

C **we pause and know your presence fully.**

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.**

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

A *Let us pray. O God, eternal and unchanging,*

C **you are the source and center of all life. Help us to cease our constant hurry and hustle, worry and anxiety, that we may rest in you. Teach us patience and endurance as we wait for the appearing of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. Amen.**

Reading

Psalm 46

P *A Reading from the Psalms. ¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

⁴ *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.* ⁵ *God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.* ⁶ *The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.* ⁷ *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

⁸ *Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.* ⁹ *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.* ¹⁰ *“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”* ¹¹ *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

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

O God of Every Nation

No. 713



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

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 *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's 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

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. 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, 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.

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