

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship



Como Park Lutheran Church

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



COMO PARK LUTHERAN

We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting, and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community and faith.

We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.

Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God’s boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.

We recognize that we hold a variety of backgrounds, personal orientations, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.

~The people of Como Park Lutheran Church

TODAY’S COFFEE HOUR
will immediately follow the service.

Please join us for some coffee and light snacks in the Narthex.

This service will be broadcast live on YouTube and recorded for later viewing:

www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch

ADULT FORUM & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	Christmas Pageant	Congregational Activity
12/21/2025	Christmas Eve Worship	Congregational Activity
12/28/2025	Coffee Hour	Congregational Activity



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose

Brahms

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

✠CONFESSIOIN AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

~ Silence is kept for reflection. ~

God for whom we wait,

we confess that try as we might, we still sin against you and others. We harm your good creation. We fail to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Accept our repentance and forgive us our sins that we may walk forever in your way. Amen.

Beloved children of God, God hears the prayers of a contrite heart and forgives you all your sin. God meets you on the road of life and welcomes you into the way of peace. Set free for the journey, may you walk in God's ways now and forever. Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

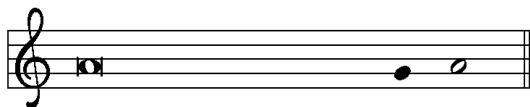
✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

✠ KYRIE

ELW pg 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



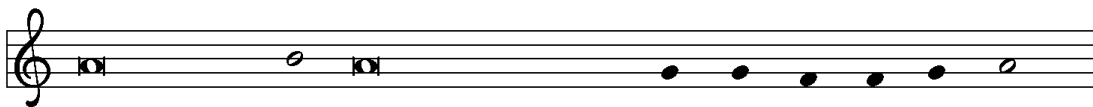
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

✠ GLORY TO GOD

ELW pg 148

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

A11



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead | Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned up | on the cherubim, shine forth

²before Ephraim and Benjamin | and Manasseh. Stir up your might,
and | come to save us!

³Restore us | O God; let your face shine, that we | may be saved.

⁴O Lord | God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's | prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears, and given them bowls of
| tears to drink.

⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors | our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we | may be saved.

17 But let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand, the one
whom you made strong | for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call |
on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts; let your face shine, that we | may be saved.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,
³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh
⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,
⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL VERSE

ELW pg. 151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

✠ **GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the First Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss 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 conceive and bear 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 borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON IN DRAMA

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

✠APOSTLES' CREED

Standing together, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

✠PRAYERS

... Lord, in your mercy,
... hear our prayer.

✠THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

Oh, Come, Little Children

Michael Burkhardt

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the “donate” button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.



✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.

THE SENDING

✠BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Michael Burkhardt

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Fling Wide the Door Text: Georg Seissel; tr. Gracia Gridnal © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin Augsburg Fortress

MACHT HOCH DIE TUR music: J.A. Fraylinghausen; arr. hymnal version © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Oh, Come, Little Children by Michael Burkhardt © 1991 MorninStar Music publishers

Joy to the World by Michael Burkhardt © 2012 Birnamwood Publications

Es ist ein Rose by Johannes Brahms, public domain

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High, O Come, All Ye Faithful used by permission under the education exemption

Please pray for...

Pam B.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Dorothy E.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Kathy H.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ann L.	Paula M.L. (cousin of Jeanette M. N.)
Heather Q.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Ruth R.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
	Randy (friend of Deb S.)

... and all in need of prayers

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
and all others who serve

**We pray regularly for all of our congregation members.
This week in worship we pray for the following families:**

Allison Steinmaus and Walter Wietzke, Raija, Suvi, Wren
Sue Woodhall
Charles Worthington
Dick and Zarida Young
Judy Zalk
Michael Zalk, Ida, David, Daniel
Zach and Claire Zehrer, Everett, Lawrence

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Martin Ericson

Organist: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	December 21, 2025
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Brennan Todd
Communion Prep	Lynn Ketelsen
Assisting Minister	Meg Duncan
Greeter	Mark & Joann Becker
Coffee Servers	Lowell Lundy & Shirley Dingman
Children's Message	SS pageant
Reader	Shirley Dingman
Liturgist	Alex Leone
Ushers	Team 1
Welcome Desk	Janice Kragness
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Ken Purdham

USHER TEAM

Fred Halberg, Sam Schultz, Darrell Anderson



Christmas Pageant Cast, 2025

Mary	Suvi
Joseph	Pearl
Gabriel	Daphne
Soldier	Esben
Innkeeper 1	Wren
Innkeeper 2	Wren
Lead angel	Siri
Angel host	Lilah, Anders, Felix
Shepherd 1	Milo
Shepherd 2	Adam
Shepherd 3	Nicholas
Magi 1	Isaac
Magi 2	Elliot
Magi 3	Esben
Narrator 1	Nora
Narrator 2	Clara
Narrator 3	Annika
Narrator 4	Layla
Animal	Hazel, Alden, Virginia
Tiny animals	Elina, Mabel, August
Star	Clark

Announcements

December 24th

A special **Christmas Eve service** will be held at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary. We look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ together. This service will also be streamed on our YouTube channel.

If you haven't already, please follow us on Facebook for community updates or visit our website for a full list of upcoming activities and events.

Please note that due to Christmas and New Year, there will be no Youth Group or Confirmation from December 24 to January 7.

Photo Directory Sign-Up

Who would like a free 8x10 family portrait and a free Centennial Anniversary Photo Directory? To get both, just sign-up for a photo session on January 8, 9 or 10. Spots are filling up already, so don't wait too long. We'd love to have you and your family included in this special project.

Learn more at:

<https://shorturl.at/BzJm6>



**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,
Visitations, & General Ministries**

Pastor Martin Ericson - 651-646-7127 Ext. 2202
ericson@comoparklutheran.org

Youth Director

David Osterhouse - 651-646-7127 Ext. 2204
osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org

Director of Music Ministries

Tom Ferry - 651-646-7127 Ext. 2209
ferry@comoparklutheran.org

Sunday School Superintendent

Kelly Whitstone - 651-646-7127
sundayschool@comoparklutheran.org

Nursery

Jessica Vargas—651-646-7127 Ext. 2219

**Senior Ministry & Volunteers Engagement
Coordinator**

Jonathan Nye - 612-839-2527 (c)
jonathan@comoparklutheran.org

Social Ministries

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org
Ruth Pechauer - 651-641-1654 (c)
ruthpechauer@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Mary Ann Schmidt - 720-357-3558 (c)
schmidt.m795@gmail.com
prayerrequest@comoparklutheran.org

**Hunger Ministries, Kitchen & Events
Coordinator**

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org

**Finance Comptroller & Trust Fund
Donations**

David Laden - 651-646-7127 Ext 2211
laden@comoparklutheran.org

Como Connects

Lisa Kane - 651-642-1127
director@comobnp.org
Stephanie Bugner - 651-642-1127
coordinator@comobnp.org
Heidi Schultz - 651-642-1127
office@comobnp.org

Living At Home, Inc.

Kristin Rigg—651-649-0315
kristin@lahnetwork.org

**Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey
County (Meals on Wheels Ramsey County)**

Denise Wickiser—651-343-6875 (c)
denise@mealsonwheels-rc.org

Sunday Custodian

Ted Chresand—651-646-7127

Custodian & Groundskeeper

Marcus Pierce - 651-646-7127
custodian@comoparklutheran.org

CHURCH OFFICE:

Angela Lennes—651-646-7127 Ext 2200
office@comoparklutheran.org