

December 7, 2025 Hanging of the Greens



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Good Morning and Welcome!

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

Online Guest Form

ORDER OF WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting One

PRELUDE "Dimanche de L'Avent" (Charles Chauvet)

Melanie Payne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection*.

Long-expected God,

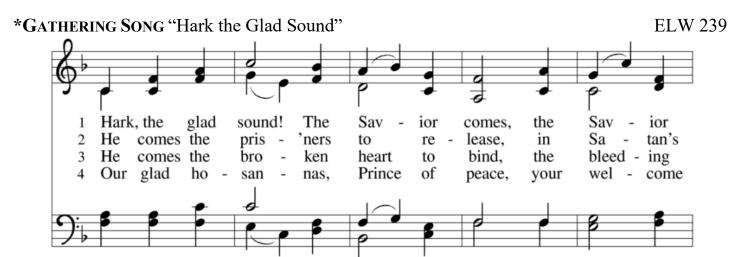
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + we are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.





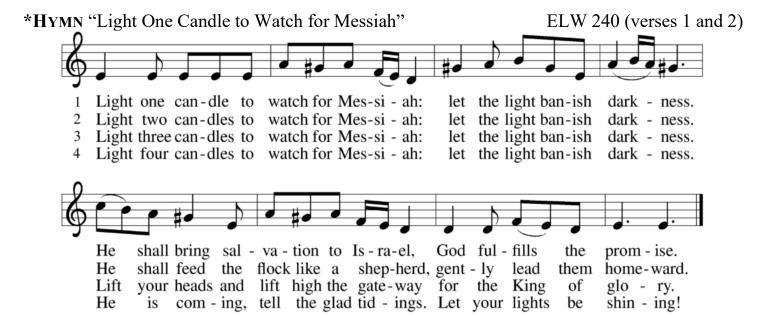
LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Pitchko Family (8:30 a.m.), Finch Family (11:00 a.m.)

O, Emmanuel

Prepare us for your coming.

Amen.



*DIALOG

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling the passion of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING

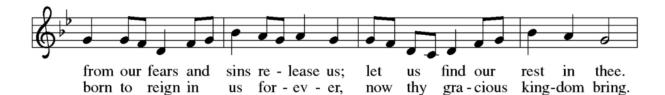
Jeremiah 23:5-6

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

ELW 254 (verse 1)



- 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;

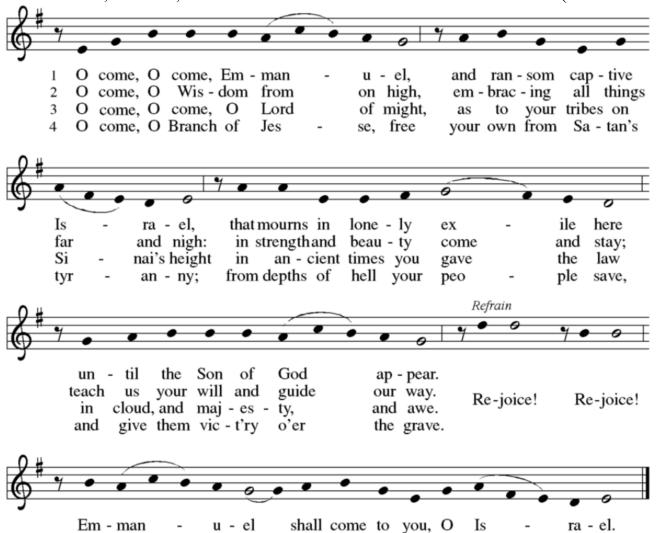






HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257 (verses 1 and 4)



THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG

Isaiah 53:1-6

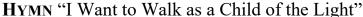
ANTHEM "The Holly and the Ivy" (Traditional)

Choir

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-5, 9-14





ELW 815 (verses 1 and 3)



WORD

TEMPLE TALK: Kit Ministry

Rhonda Gaede

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

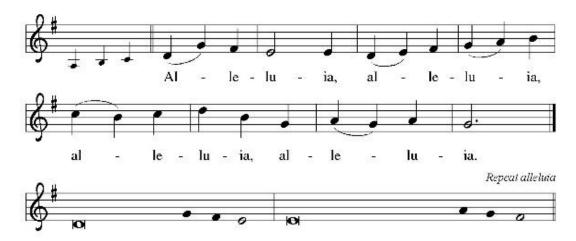
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bonnie Flowers

GOSPEL FANFARE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

- "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
- 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



ELW 256



- 1 "Com fort, com-fort now my peo ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry ing in the des ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook ed, and the rough er plac es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load. call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them! Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way. For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er. Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor. and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

* NICENE CREED

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

God of grace, hear our prayer.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

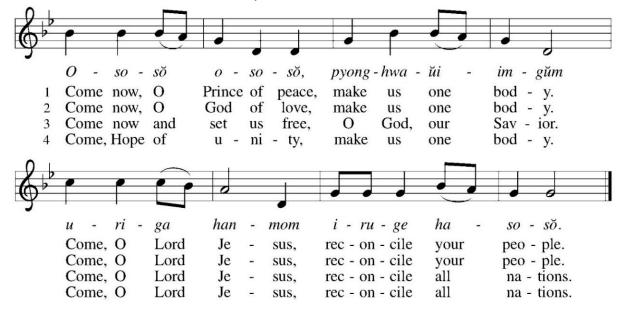
OFFERING

Organ Solo: "Let All Mortal Flesh" (Callahan)

Melanie Payne

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW 247



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

*OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,

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.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

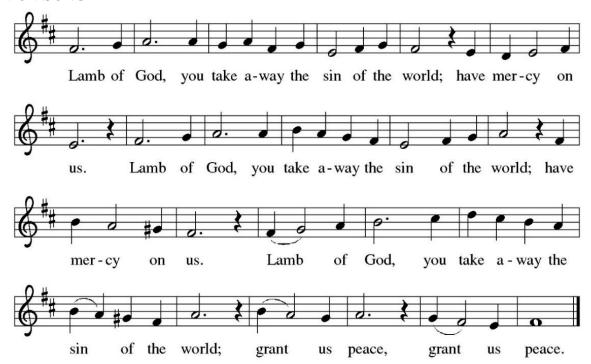
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

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.

*Invitation to Communion

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"



DISTRIBUTION

HYMN "What Feast of Love"

ELW 487



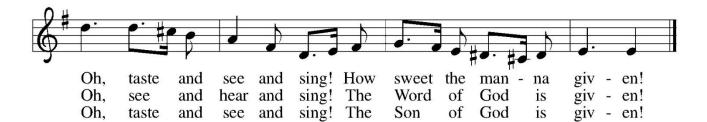
- 1 What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



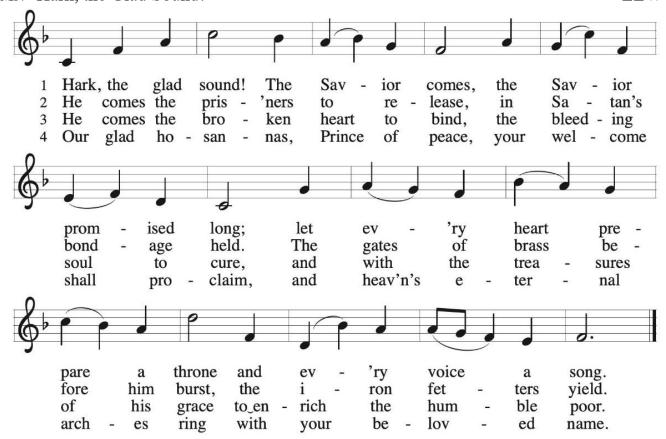
This, this Christ the king, the bread come down from is heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

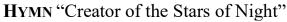
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820



ELW 245

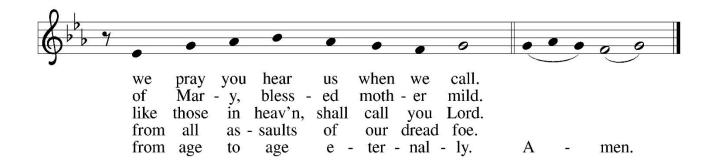


- 1 Cre a tor of the stars of night,
 2 When this old world draw on toward night
- 2 When this old world drew on toward night,
- 3 At your great name, O Je sus, now
- 4 Come in your ho ly might, we pray, 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,
- your peo ple's ev er you came; but not in all knees must bend, all re - deem us for e -
- and God the Spir it,



last - ing light, splen - dor bright, hearts must bow: ter - nal day; Three in One,

O Christ, re - deem - er of us all, the child mon - arch, but not as a things on all earth with one ac - cord. de - fend while we dwell be - low us praise, hon - or, might, and glo -



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

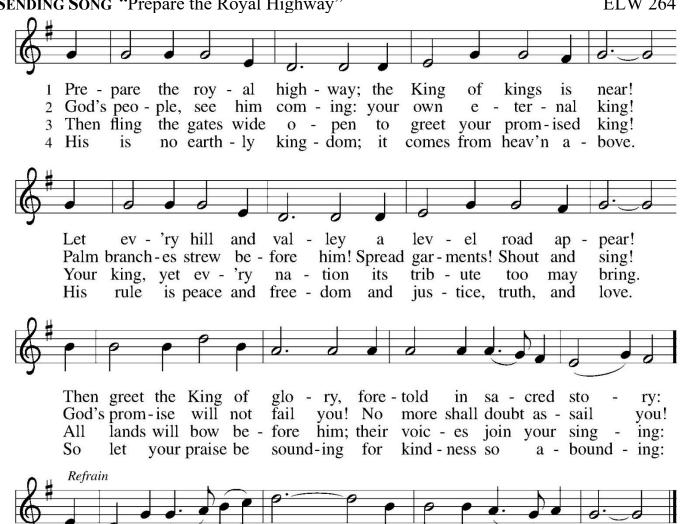
*Post Communion Prayer

*Post Communion Canticle

ELW p. 113



*BLESSING



ful - fills

for

he

God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Ho - san - na to

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. We will. Thanks be to God!

the

Lord,

POSTLUDE "Chorale and Fughetta on Genevan Psalter 42" (David Lasky)

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Norma Freymuth Stephen Amy Cunningham

Don and Lizzie Palmer Rich David, Sharon & Bryant

Lindsey and the Porter Family Walt Angela Kevin Kenneth Steve

CindyDianeLeighannDavidConnie StangerTheresa

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Laura Peterson and by Jutta and Matt DeMarsh in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee and fellowship after service in the Fellowship Hall.

NURSERY staffed by Hannah Seitz, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

WE MOVE TO ONE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M. STARTING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. Remember to reset your alarm clocks as our Sunday worship schedule changes to one service at 9:30 a.m. until January 4, 2026. Lots going on next Sunday. Continue to read below.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND PROGRAM: JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM! DECEMBER 14TH. Our children and youth will lead the service of worship and share the message of the Journey to Bethlehem.

RING AND SING, DECEMBER 14TH AT 6:30 P.M. IN SANCTUARY. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to a favorite Messiah Christmas tradition. All proceeds benefit the Madison Public Library.

LAST DAY TO ORDER CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IS NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. There's still time to help make our sanctuary cozy and bright this Christmas season. Order poinsettias or amaryllises in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Christmas Flower order form can be found in your bulletin or in the Narthex.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. Please stop by the Narthex to claim your offering envelope. Contact the office or Mark Neely at finsec@mlutheran.org if you don't see yours.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER IS POTLUCK STYLE FOR 12/10 AND 12/17. Main dish will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Thank you!

KIT MINISTRY – Infant Socks

FOOD PANTRY – Soups / Toothpaste

Pastor	Kristine Schroeder	Communications Director	Jan Morrison
Director of Music	Randall Fields	Information Technology	Chris Elegante
Organist/Accompanist	Melanie Payne		
Office Manager	Jill Casey		

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 7 Hanging of the Greens

8:00 a.m. - Adult Choir Warm Up

8:30 a.m. - *Service of Worship ELW Setting

One with the Lord's Supper

9:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. – Service of Worship ELW Setting

One with the Lord's Supper

5:00 p.m. - Cherub and Seraph Choir

5:00 p.m. - Youth Christmas Party 6:30 p.m. - Notabella Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 9

9:00 a.m. - Comforters

Wednesday, December 10

12:00 p.m. - Midweek Advent Service of Worship

Holden Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m. - Wednesday Night Potluck Dinner

7:00 p.m. - Midweek Advent Service of Worship

Holden Evening Prayer

7:45 p.m. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 11

6:00 p.m. - Stephen Ministry

7:00 p.m. – Church Council

Saturday, December 13

9:00 a.m. -Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal

11:30 a.m. -Youth Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Sunday, December 14

9:30 a.m. - * Service of Worship Journey to

Bethlehem, Children and Youth Christmas Pageant, w/ the Lord's

Supper

6:30 p.m. - Ring and Sing

LOOKING AHEAD

December 14 - We move to one Sunday Worship

Service at 9:30 a.m.

December 14 - Children's Christmas Pageant /

Ring and Sing

December 18 - MoMs Manly Man Gift

Lector

Greeters

Stream Team

Flower Guild

Ushers Altar Guild Exchange

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services at *5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

December 28 - Service of Worship Lessons and

Carols

ATTENDANCE November 23 Online: 44 November 30: 8:30 – 64 11:00 – 55

8:30 Worship

Greg Kilby
Bobbey and Joe Huwaldt
Bruce Peter, Owen Wasmoen
Leelinda Baggett
Stephen Strand, Meredith Kilby
Mary Burke

11:00 Worship		
Lector	Martin Campbell	
Greeter	Jay Perry	
Ushers	Bill Holbrook, Tom McNamara	
Altar Guild	Chris Berry	
Stream Team	Paul Zutter	
Flower Guild	Mary Burke	

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