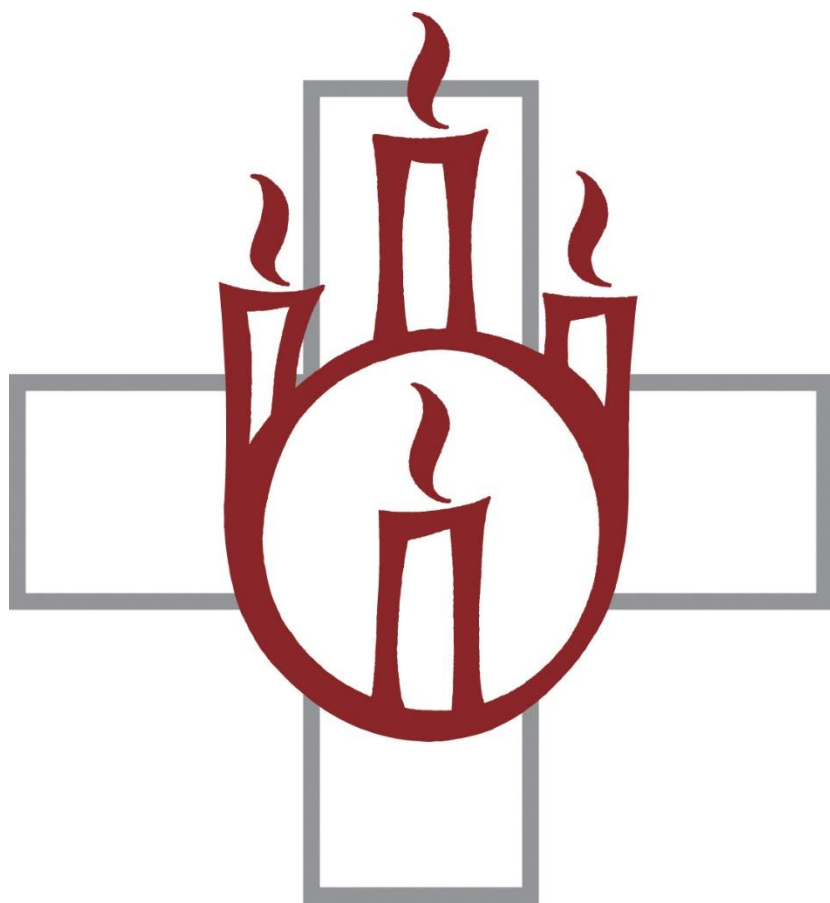


Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025



Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas

MOUNT CALVARY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

We realize that it is difficult for some people to stand, or kneel, for long periods of time. Please feel free to sit as necessary during the liturgy and the prayers. Sitting during the confession is also appropriate for those who cannot kneel.

DIVINE SERVICE

SETTING FOUR

PRELUDE

Stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99

Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

© But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

Kneel/Stand Silence for Reflection

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

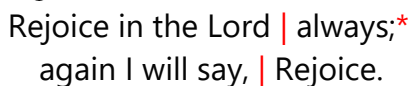
P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

pq. 204-207

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4



I will hope con- | tinually*

and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*

I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to come.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
 again I will say, | Rejoice.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



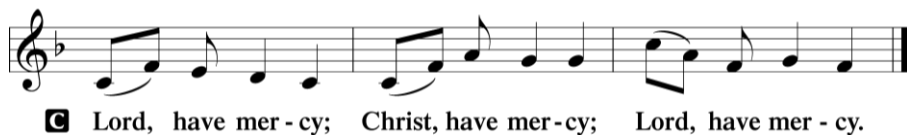
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



A 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.



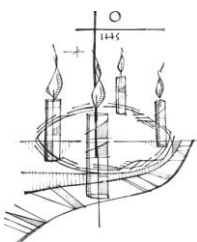
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



During Advent, the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted.



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Sadie Olson, Soloist

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Tune: Yiddish Folk Tune

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.*

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.*

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

James 5:7–11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered

violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON: The Joy of the Redeemed

ISAIAH 35:1-10

Rev. Mike Middaugh

Stand

OFFERTORY: Create in Me

LSB 956

Sit

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our offering is our way of saying, "Thank you" to God for all His gifts to us and to support His work here at Mt. Calvary and around the world. To all our guests this morning, we are happy to have you with us, but you are under no obligation to give an offering. But we would request your prayers for our ministry. We would ask all present to please complete an attendance card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate in order that we have a record of your worshipping with us. If you have a prayer request, please put it on a "Prayer Request Card" and the ushers will bring it forward with the offering.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

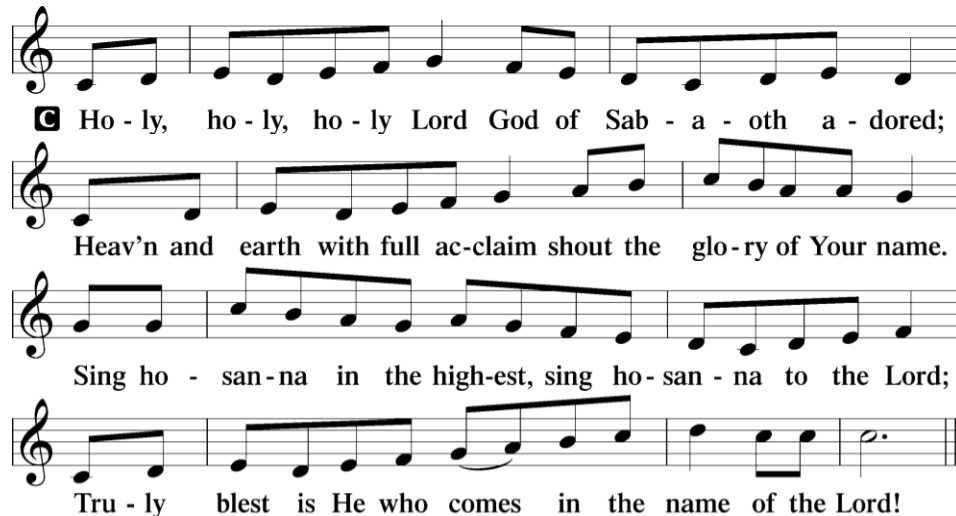
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ The Peace of the Lord

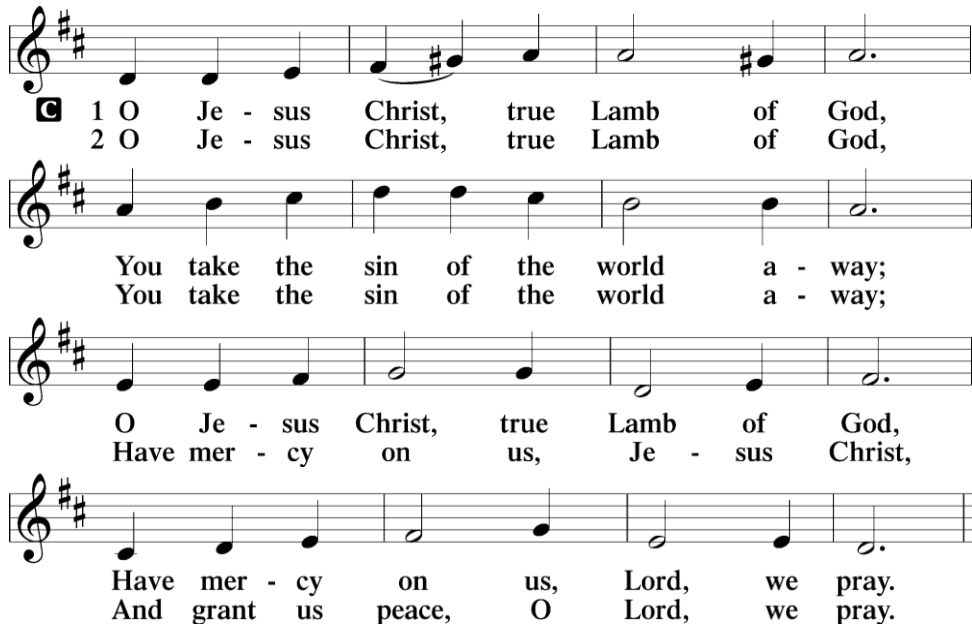
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

As Angels Joyed with One Accord

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905-1996 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621 WELS

Onelicense 727731

As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So let us gladly praise the name
Of Him who from the Father came.

He comes in water to the child
 And cleanses it, from birth defiled.
 This washing seals His pard'ning grace
 And shows the Father's kindly face.

He comes to us in bread and wine
 To give Himself and gifts divine.
 O praise Him for this Sacrament,
 Redeeming love's great testament!

Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
 Shall vanish when He comes again.
 Where we shall see Him face to face,
 There joy alone shall have a place.

LSB 872 Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star



1 Come, Thou bright and Morn - ing Star, Light of Light with -
 2 Let Thy grace, like morn - ing dew, Fall - ing soft on
 3 May Thy fer - vent love de - stroy Our cold works, in
 4 Ah! Thou Day - spring from on high, Grant that at Thy
 5 Light us to those heav'n - ly spheres, Sun of grace, in

out be - gin - ning; Shine up - on us from a - far
 bar - ren plac - es, Com - fort, quick - en, and re - new
 us a - wak - ing Ar - dent zeal and ho - ly joy
 next ap - pear - ing We who in the graves do lie
 glo - ry shroud - ed; Lead us through this vale of tears

That we may be kept from sin - ning.
 Our dry souls and dy - ing grac - es;
 At the pur - ple morn's first break - ing.
 May a - rise, Thy sum - mons hear - ing,
 To the land where days un - cloud - ed,

Drive a - way by Thy clear light Our dark night.
 Bless Thy flock from Thy rich store Ev - er - more.
 Let us tru - ly rise ere yet Life has set.
 And re - joice in our new life, Far from strife.
 Pur - est joy, and per - fect peace Nev - er cease.

Text: Christian Knorr von Rosenroth, 1636–89; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen
 Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 354 Arise, O Christian People

1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -
 day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed
 sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come
 truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es
 heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 338 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
 Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
 Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

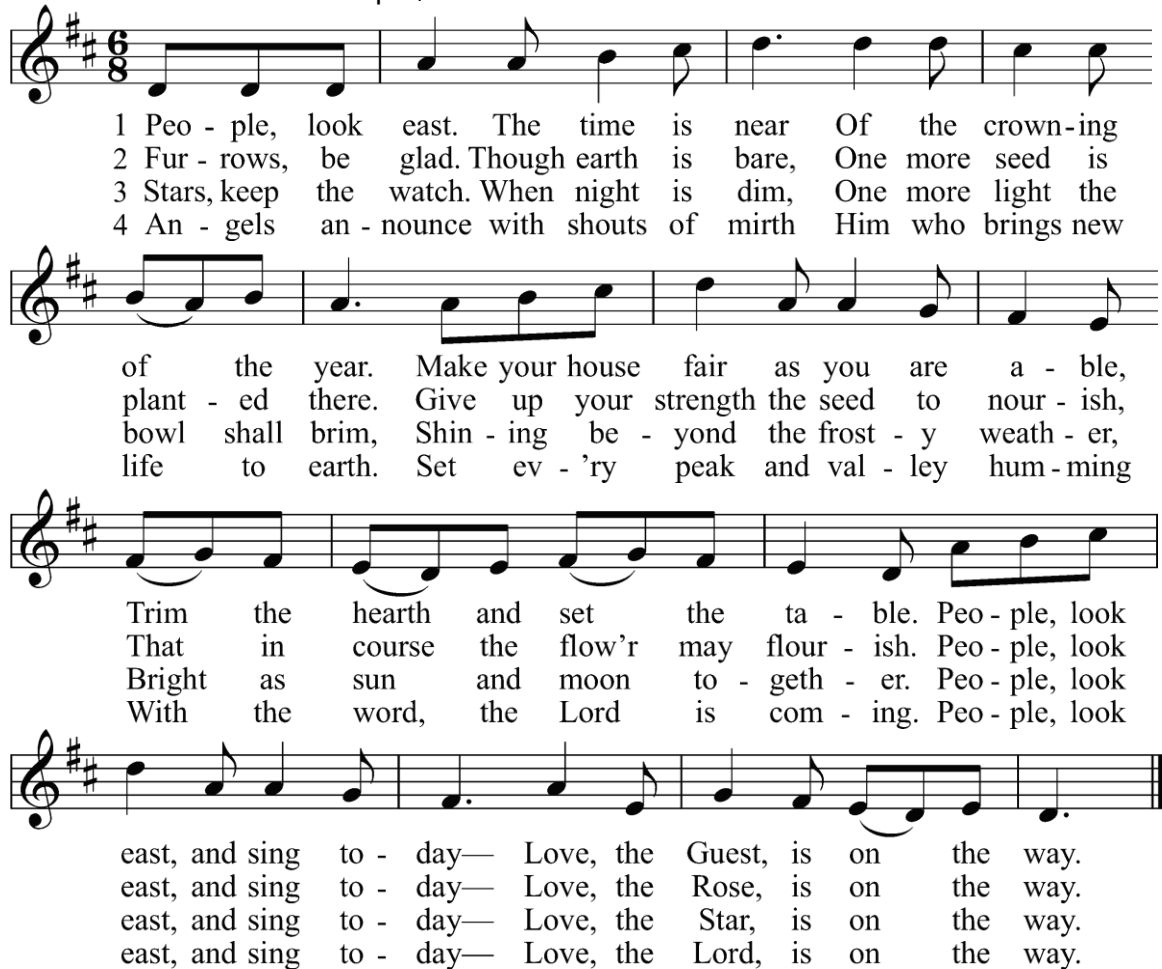
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: People, Look East

OAR 173



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.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Tune: French

POSTLUDE

LSB (Lutheran Service Book 2006)

OAR (On And All Rejoice 2021) Hymnal Supplement to LSB

CW (Christian Worship) WELS

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister: Rev. Michael Middaugh

Organist: Rev. Craig Meissler

Elders: Dave Thompson Trey Roberts Robert Axtell

Ushers: Steve Melancon Martin Aguilar

Daniel Ochoa Wally Mencke

Greeters: Deidra Thompson Carol Wilson

HOLY COMMUNION

- If you are a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to take communion, please indicate on the Attendance Card found in the pew and place in the offering plate. Because participation in the Lord's Supper is a public declaration of the Christian Faith which is confessed at this altar (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:3; 4:16; 6:3-10; 2 Tim. 1:13; Rom. 16:17) those who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, are asked to respectfully refrain from participation today and speak with a pastor after the Divine Service. If you are not communing but wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest once you are kneeled at the communion rail.
- Both the common cup and individual cups are offered at each table simultaneously. If you desire the common cup, please hold your hands open and the pastor will provide it to you, while the elders serve the individual cups. It is proper to take hold of the cup when receiving the common cup. This helps prevent spilling and greatly assist the pastor.

ALCOHOL-REMOVED WINE/GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE

- For those who are allergic, or for health reasons, and unable to drink regular wine, alcohol-removed wine is available for Holy Communion. The alcohol-removed wine is white in color and in the individual cups in the center of each tray.
- Gluten-free wafers are also available. Please notify one of the pastors before the service that you would prefer the gluten-free option. The reception of this wine and the gluten-free wafers in no way affects the theological meaning or benefits of this Sacrament.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP During this hour, God comes to us in His Word and Sacrament, and we respond in prayer and praise! Here are a few practical tips for minimizing distractions and maximizing participation:

- **IN ORDER THAT WE HAVE** a record of your worshipping with us, we would ask all present to **please complete an attendance card** found in the pew and place in the offering plate.
- We ask that you turn off or put away your phones and electronic devices so that you can participate fully in what God is doing during this special time dedicated to Him.
- While it is sometimes necessary to quiet an infant or toddler with a small snack or a bottle, **we ask that no other foods or beverages** be brought into the sanctuary.
- The ministerial staff is always available to you should you have spiritual care needs. Please contact the front office to arrange for pastoral care.
- Hearing devices are available for the hearing impaired. Please speak with one of the ushers.

CHILDREN & WORSHIP We love children and are happy they are here with us! Just as a child learns to speak by imitating the voice of mom or dad, so too a child learns to worship by participating in the service at an early age. If you have questions about how to incorporate your child into the worship life of the congregation in an age-appropriate way, please see one of the pastors. **Assistance for children with special needs during worship and Sunday school is also available – see an usher for details.** **A nursery** is also available. Parents can use it when quieting a child or changing a diaper. The service can be heard in the nursery. **Activity items** are available for your child(ren) in the narthex. Please make sure all items are returned at the end of the service.

MIDWEEK STUDIES

Tuesday Morning Class | *Tues* | 10:00-11:30am {Parish Hall} Immediately following Matins (10:00am)

Men's Study | 1st & 3rd *Wed* | 6:00pm {Parish Hall} All men are invited! Contact Roman Gomez.

Men's Study | 1st & 3rd *Sat* | 8:00-9:30am {Parish Hall} The study of Acts. Led by Daniel Ochoa.

Women's Study | 3rd *Mon* | 7:30-8:30pm {Meets at members' homes} Contact Shirley Wille.

Women's Study | 2nd & 4th *Mon* | 6:00-7:30pm {Library} We have started *Divine Directions: How God Guides Your Path* (Sharla Fritz, CPH).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SERVICES continue to be live streamed and archived on our website. Bible class/Sunday school for all ages is at 8:45am with our Divine Service at 10:00am.

PRAYERS – Jan Miyauchi, Russell Maxwell, Art Wendt, Michelle Thompson, Marlene Walker, Brad Boeckner, Bill O'Brien, Linda Dietz, Patsy Bond, Jeff Harwood, Darrell Donnell, Heidi Farmer, Christine Prinz, Joshua Gabel, Richard Wieding, Michael Gilg, Nancy Goggio, Debbie Kuehling, Dave Weller, Hayley Trujillo; our home-bound members: Raymond & Sue Robel, Janet Schneider, Joyce Warren, Jim Wegge, Ann Werling.

LORD'S SUPPER – If you are physically unable to get to church and would like to receive the Lord's Supper in your home, please contact the church office so that we can schedule a date and time with one of the pastors.

PASTORAL CARE, VISITATION, & PRAYERS – If it is your desire to share a health condition, hospitalization, or procedure for which you would like a pastoral visit, it is important for us to know as much information ahead of time as possible. Please contact the church office with all the pertinent information. If you are hospitalized or in rehab, it helps us a great deal to keep us updated as to where you are as well as the room number if possible. If you wish for you or your loved one to be included in the Prayers of the Church on Sunday morning, please contact the church office as soon as you can.

COME JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY FOR OUR THIRD MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE! As in the past, we will be doing Holden's Evening Prayer. The service starts at 7:00pm. A meal will be served prior to the service (5:30pm). The Mary-Martha Guild will be serving Taco Salad. Everyone is invited!

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS: If you are not currently a member of Mt. Calvary but would like to know what membership entails and our process for receiving new members, please speak to one of our elders, or one of the pastors. For those coming from a non-Lutheran background we offer new-member adult confirmation classes upon request. For those who are transferring from another LCMS Lutheran Church, the transfer process is often quick, but the pastors would still wish to speak with you, and answer questions you may have about Mt. Calvary. Membership is an important commitment to a local congregation, both to receive spiritual care from, and to give support to, the ministry of a congregation which is a Biblical model we still follow today.

USHERS NEEDED for Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve. Please see the sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

THE SILENT AUCTION CLOSING TODAY!! The Youth Silent Auction closes today, **Sunday, December 14th at 12pm**. Please join us in the gym after service to place your final bids and collect your items. The Youth Group would like to thank all the members of Mt. Calvary for their generous donations and biddings which continue to support our mission and activities. Praise be to God!

GREETERS NEEDED!! Greeters are needed beginning in January. You would normally only have to serve once a month greeting people as they enter the narthex. Please see Rita Storms if you are interested.

THERE WILL BE A DRESS REHEARSAL on Saturday, December 20, from 10-11:30am for the Christmas Program.

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEET IS available in the narthex. \$10.00 each

NO BRAILLE during the month of December. Braille will resume in January.

PLEDGE CARDS/TIME AND TALENT SHEETS CAN be brought to the church office or put in the basket in the narthex.



YOU CAN HELP FUND THE PURCHASE OF SANDWICH SUPPLIES BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION IN THE BREAD BOX LOCATED ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.



SANDWICHES FOR CAM – JOIN US! We have been preparing **300 sandwiches** two times per month for Christian Assistance Ministries. (CAM). CAM currently distributes 300 sandwiches **per day** to those in need in our community. Please consider volunteering an hour of your time to help with the sandwich making. Interested? **HAM & CHEESE TUESDAY!**

YOU ARE INVITED TO the 120th Annual San Antonio Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier TODAY, December 14th at 5:30pm. The Christmas story told in German through scripture, poetry, music and prayers featuring: The Beethoven Männerchor, the San Antonio Liederkrantz, and organ recital by Dr. David Heller (5:00pm). Margarite B. Parker Chapel at Trinity University in San Antonio. saweihnachtsfeier@gmail.com or on Facebook: "San Antonio Weihnachtsfeier" or www.saweihnachtsfeier.org. Admission is free. The Schnitzelbox German food truck will be there.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2026 is available in the Elders room off the narthex.

BIBLES NEEDED! CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY is in need of bibles. If you have any bibles at home that you no longer need, please consider donating them to CAM. Remove any personal information from them before donating. A bin for CAM is available in the Parish Hall foyer.

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (CAM) Needs are canned vegetables, men's jeans, belts, tennis/athletic shoes, casual pants/shorts, diapers (sizes 6,7,8,). Your donations are greatly appreciated!

THE AGAPE MINISTRY most needed items: canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, rice, fresh or frozen meat. Other items needed are canned vegetables, canned fruit, mac & cheese, tomato sauce/pasta sauce, soup, beans (dry or canned), spaghetti, cereal, cookies, crackers, laundry detergent, toilet paper, bar soap, pet food. Also accepted are used clothing, household items, linens, shoes, purses, new underwear, socks, etc.

ANIMAL DEFENSE LEAGUE URGENT NEEDS: Canned Dog Food, Canned Cat Food, Blankets, Dog Treats, XL KONG Toys, Bottles, KMR (1st step), Puppy Esbilac, Puppy pads, Miracle nipples, Food scales, Heating pads, and Warming discs. All food items should be unopened. Please separate newspapers and empty medicine bottles into bags.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – December 21st, "Everybody Is Somebody" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God sends His people--the Church--to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. (Romans 1:7) Times/Stations: 6:00am on WOAI 1200; 9:00am on KAWZ 88.7 FM; or 8:00am on KWED 1580 AM (Seguin).

READ, LISTEN, WATCH – 1517.org is a nonprofit organization that exists to declare and defend the Good News that you are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone. 1517 features hundreds of podcasts, articles, and videos all with the purpose of preaching and teaching Reformation Theology and Christ for You. 1517 is a completely free resource thanks to partnership and support from dozens of LCMS churches here in Texas, and around the country. If you have not already, go to 1517.org to access their large library of online resources.



A LIFE QUOTE FOR SUNDAY, December 14th: "And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God." *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Sunday – 132 Adult Class – 47 PreK-HS – 23 Tuesday Matins – 16
 Midweek Advent I – 41 Midweek Advent II - 60

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December
 16 Debbie Domel
 17 Jay Miller
 18 Russell Voss
 19 Sophia Kersh
 20 Ava Kersh

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

Today	8:30am	Fellowship/Coffee
	8:45am	Sunday school/Adult Bible class/Hymn Sing
	10:00am	Divine Service w/ Holy Communion
Tuesday	10:00am	Matins (Sanctuary – please enter at Parish Hall doors) Followed by Tuesday Morning Class (Parish Hall)
Wednesday	10:00am	Quilting
	5:30pm	Midweek Advent Meal
	6:00pm	Choir Practice
	7:00pm	Midweek Evening Prayer
	7:45pm	Choir Practice
Friday	7:00pm	AA – Shook Big Book
Next Sunday	8:30am	Fellowship/Coffee
	8:45am	Sunday school/Adult Bible class
	10:00am	Divine Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30am	Christmas Program

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS CORRECTION

Matt Wegner
483~~86~~ 226th St.
Flandreau, SD 57028

They have been receiving their mail with the incorrect address.



MOUNT CALVARY STAFF

Craig Meissler, Pastor Mike Middaugh, Pastor

David Thompson, Sexton

Susan Melancon, Office Manager

Sheryl Jones, Bookkeeper

Janice Moore, Office Assistant

Church Office: 210-824-8748

WEB PAGE ADDRESS: www.mtcsa.org

CHURCH E-MAIL: mtcalvary@mtcsa.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm; Friday 8:00am-noon



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 17 (7:00pm)

Meal served from 5:30-6:30pm

December 17 – Taco Salad by Mary-Martha Guild
(No reception after the services)

Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 14 (8:45am) in the gym

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21 following the worship service

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24 (6:00pm)

Christmas Day Service w/ Holy Communion

Thursday, December 25 (10:00am)

December Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30am: Coffee & Donuts / Fellowship in the gym

8:45am - 9:45am: Sunday School / Bible Class

10:00am: Divine Service each Sunday in December

No Bible class on December 28

New Year's Eve Service w/ Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 31 (12:00pm)

