

December 13-14 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

5p/9a Worship Service



First Lutheran
discover more : **together**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Prelude 9am: "Prepare the Royal Highway" – Arr. Robert Hobby
Two Duets: "Second Air" & "Marche" - Jean-Baptiste Lully –
Intergenerational Brass Ensemble

Welcome

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

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

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(brief silence) Long-expected God,

**All: 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 har-
mony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awak-
en us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you
have promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn: *ELW* #242

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting ... *ELW* #715 (st 4) "Christ, Be Our Light"

The candles are lit during the song.

L: We light the candle of Lovee.

**All: We remember the astonishing love of God shown in the
incarnation—God with us.**

L: God of love, you have shown your love in Jesus. Move our hearts to love
our neighbors and work for reconciliation. Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Prayer of the Day

P: Let us Pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

(5p) Baptism——> Colored Pages

(9a) Children's Message

Sit

Intro to the Reading:

L: This week, we celebrate the astonishing love of God made flesh in Jesus. Advent waiting is not idle, but lives out the love made known in Christ. God's love is a call to love our neighbor with courage and grace. The first reading is Mary's Song from Luke chapter 1, which speaks of God's love made known in surprising ways.
Please join in a responsive reading of the Magnificat.

The Reading: Luke 1:46b-55 *NRSVue*

L: ^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**All: ⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

L: ⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**All: ⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

L: ⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**All: ⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

L: ⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**All: ⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

L: ⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

L: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation pg. 102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The Gospel according St. Matthew chapter 11...

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 *NRSVue*

P: ²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes?

Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon ... Pr. Steve Knudson

Prepare the Royal Highway



- 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:

Refrain



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Stand

Hymn of the Day: ELW #264 (st. 1,3,4)

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Lector: Go to the Ambo for the Prayers

5pm skip Creed and go to prayers——>

The Apostles’ Creed...Page 105

All: 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.

THE PRAYERS →

L: God of Love,

All: receive our prayer.

Passing of the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you

P: Let us turn to one another, offering a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering of Gratitude:

(Sit) P: You may be seated.

We give God our thanks and praise in response to God's mercy and abundance.

We invite you to place your gratitude card along with any offering you have in the plate at this time or make an offering electronically.

Would the ushers please come forward.

Lector—Go to Ambo before Prayer; remain up front for communion.

(9a) Special Music: "Joy to the World" - Arr. Julie Turner
Resonaré Ringers

(9) Offertory Hymn: *ELW* #247 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (st. 1,3)

All: Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Offertory Prayer:

L: *(5p) Please Stand and*

(9a) Let us pray.

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.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: ... page 107

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Advent Preface:

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:

Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy"...page 108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: 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: You may be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward. There is gluten free bread and juice available upon request. The table is set and all are welcome. (optional) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Lamb of God ... page 112

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

(9a) Special Music: "Gabriel's Message" - Arr. Cathy Moglebust
Handbell Ensemble

Communion Hymn: *ELW* #723 "Canticle of the Turning"
if low attendance, may not do all verses at 9am

Lector—go to the ambo as Pastor covers communion elements.

Stand

The Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

L: God our host, 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.

All: Amen.

- Sending -

Benediction:

P: May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience
in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *ELW* #248 → *on the back* →
"People Look East"

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "People, Look East" - Arr. J. Wayne Kerr

People, Look East



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

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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Special Thanks to our Worship Leaders & Musicians:

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown

Presiding: Pr. Steve Knudson and Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster

5p Pianist: Marita Wolgast

Organist: Brett Wolgast
& Special Guest Stephen Hamilton

Tech Team:

Communications Director: Will Mittelsteadt

CG & Stream Operator: Jacob Bartels

Technical Director: Megan Fleming

Audio Engineer: Avery Karkosh

Prayer & Financial Support: Worshipers like you!