

December 20 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

5p Worship Service



**First Lutheran**  
discover more : **together**

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



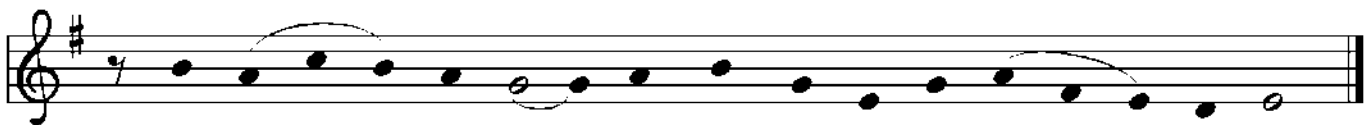
- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

## Prelude:

## 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 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.**

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* #257 (st. 1,2,7)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

## 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 2) "Christ, Be Our Light"

***The candles are lit during the song.***

L: We light the candle of Peace and all the candles of Advent.

**All: Christ is the Prince of Peace. In him God reconciles us to Godself and calls us into the work of reconciliation.**

L: Prince of Peace, break the powers of violence and fear and make us instruments of your reconciliation.

# 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 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.

**All: Amen.**

*Sit*

## Intro to the Reading:

L: Peace is more than the absence of conflict—it is the presence of God with us. Isaiah promises a child who will be called Immanuel, and Psalm 80 pleads for God's face to shine upon us. Paul reminds us that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, bringing reconciliation and grace. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph chooses peace by trusting God's plan. As we light the candle of peace and prepare for Christ's birth, we are called to be peacemakers—those who bring healing, hope, and unity to a divided world.

## The Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *NRSVue*

L: <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**All: <sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L: <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**All: <sup>4</sup> O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

L: <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**All: <sup>6</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L: <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**All: <sup>17</sup> Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

L: <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**All: <sup>19</sup> Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

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 1...

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 *NRSVue*

P: <sup>18</sup>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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

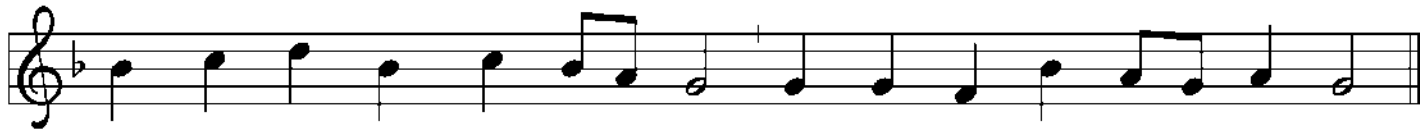
**All: Praise to you O Christ.**

**Sermon ...** Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster

## Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.



*Stand*

**Hymn of the Day:** *ELW* #263 (st. 1-4)

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Lector: Go to the Ambo for the 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 Peace,***

***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.*

**Offertory Prayer:**

L: Please Stand and 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.**

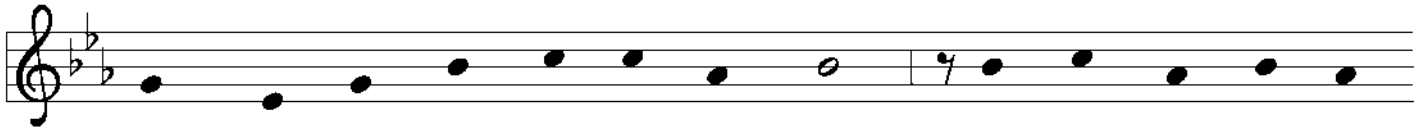
P: You may be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward. There is gluten free bread and juice available upon request. The table is set and all are welcome. (optional) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

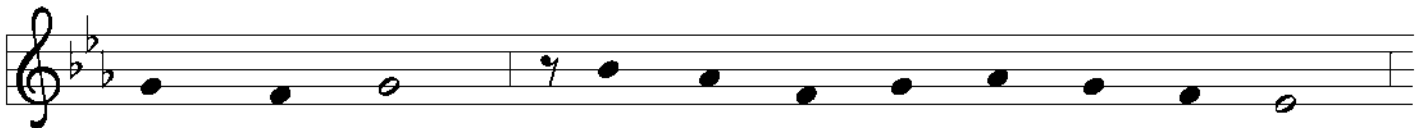
The Lamb of God ... page 112

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.

# Creator of the Stars of Night



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



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.  
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

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**Communion Hymn:** *ELW* #245 “Creator of the Stars of Night”

*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* #267 → *on the back* →  
"Joy to the World"

**Dismissal:**

**L:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

# Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.: arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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**Special Thanks to our Worship Leaders & Musicians:**

**Preaching:** Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster  
**Presiding:** Pr. Steve Knudson and Pr. Craig Brown  
**Sp 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

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