

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Facebook live

8:30am Worship



Welcome to worship at TIERRASANTALUTHERANCHURCH

We're excited that you have chosen to worship with us. We encourage you to fill out the green visitor sheet located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering basket.

We have "Busy Bags" for kids in the narthex, and children's bulletins are available from an usher. A Nursery for children 3 and under is at the west end of the hallway.

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

PRESERVICE *(Piano)*

PRELUDE "Call to Advent" - Smith

Copyright 1984 Hinshaw

WELCOME TO WORSHIP BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

THE HYMN AT THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

(Piano Introduction)

*3. Light the Advent candle three Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.*

Chorus:

**Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

THE BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 244 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (stz. 1, 3, 4)

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you!

KYRIE (ELW pages 156-157 Sung)

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let's pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let's pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: 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. Amen.

FIRST READING *The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No 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. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING *In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 253 “He Came Down”

- 3 He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.

GOSPEL *John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God’s judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus’ response indicates that God’s reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter, beginning with the 2nd verse.

C: *(Sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 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: Here ends the Reading of the Gospel.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC “My Soul Gives Glory” - Schalk

Copyright 1996 MorningStar sung by Choir

MESSAGE BY PASTOR BODHAN VADIS

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 715 “Christ, Be Our Light” (stz. 1, 3, 4)

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Text © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications.

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

P: God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing, we pray especially for *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, Brandi Vadis, James Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Frank Fogg, Suzanne Till, Mike George, Diane Raines, Kathy Kelly, Anastasia Balmaceda, the family of Carol Bergdahl at her death, Richard VanderSchaaf at the death of his brother, and for prayers of thanksgiving for the joyous birth of Brynn Gretchen O'Meara born to Kimmie Veihl & Derek O'Meara on 11/20/25 (proud grandparents Rick and Gretchen Veihl)*. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: For what else do the people pray? God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 247 **“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”** (*stz. 1, 2, 3; tune: “Thine the Amen Thine the Praise”*)

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope. Text © Geonyong Lee.

CHILDREN’S OFFERING - Tijuana Home Build *working alongside Casas de Luz, we’re raising money to help cover the cost of building materials, housing, and food—and bring us one step closer to handing a family the keys to a safe, stable home in Tijuana.*

BILL STEPHENSON POEM

LIVE NATIVITY VIDEO

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW page 161-162, sung)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung. Tune: "Thine the Amen, Thine the praise")

C: Ho-ly, holy, holy 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 highest, sing ho-san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly blest is He who comes _ in the name of the Lord!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All Christians are invited by our Lord to receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Children who have not yet received First Communion instructions are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but are requested to wait with Communing until they have been properly instructed. If you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest. Wine is in the gold chalice and grape juice is in the pottery chalice.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Lamb of God" (ELW page 164)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace. Amen.

HYMN ELW 257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stz. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

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*

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 248 “People, Look East” (stz. 1, 2, 4)

1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

THE DISMISSAL

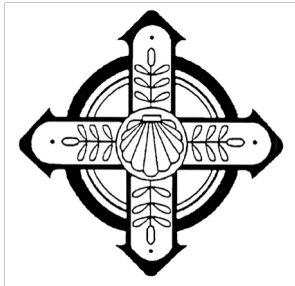
P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (*Omitted during Advent*)

Reader: Christine Durnell
Ushers: Charlie Durnell, Tom Brown
Communion: Bill Stephenson
Altar: Claudia Murphy
Coffee: Derry & Ginny Pence
Nursery: Marieke Caragan,
Acolyte: Rebecca Caragan

Permission to podcast/stream music from this service obtained from One License with license # 733910-A. Valid for 04/16/2025 - 04/15/2026 and Christian Copyright Licensing, LLC. License 2953788 & 20576474 for 02/28/2025-02/28/2026.



TLC STAFF

Senior Pastor: Bohdan Vadis; **Administrative Assistant:** Elizabeth Duffield;
Bookkeeper: Sandy Robinson; **Director of Music:** Betsy Frater; **Worship**
Projection Technician: Amy Hall; **Sextons:** Sam Irons, Aaron Russell; **TLC**
Pre School Director: Melissa Vargas.

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

858.560.8688 Email info@tierrasantalutheran.org
www.tierrasantalutheran.com