

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21 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.

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

PRESERVICE *(Piano)*

PRELUDE "Three Advent Settings" - *A. Organ (Handbells)*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

THE HYMN AT THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

(Piano Introduction)

4. **Light the advent candle four, Think of joy forevermore
Christ-child in a stable born - gift of love that Christmas morn.**

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 lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 246 **“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”** (*stz 1, 3, 4, 5*)

(Tune : **“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**)

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"
- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

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 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. Amen.

FIRST READING *An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Emmanuel, God is with us!*

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

SECOND READING *Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedient faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 253 “He Came Down”

4 He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.

GOSPEL *Matthew’s story of Jesus’ birth focuses on the role of Joseph who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name of Jesus, which means “God saves.”*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter, beginning with the 18th verse.

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

Matthew 1:18-25

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 with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: Here ends the Reading of the Gospel.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary Did You Know” - Lowry, Greene-Page Handbells (Max Brown, Trombone)

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MESSAGE BY PASTOR BODHAN VADIS

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 254 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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: In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill, 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, and Richard VanderSchaaf at the death of his brother*. Lord, please guide and protect our military personnel serving in harm's way. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

P: Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C: hear our Prayer

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

C: hear our Prayer

P: We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. 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.

DEDICATION OF THE PRAYER QUILT

Boian Spassov; Sponsors: Tony & Alyona Colson

OFFERING HYMN ELW 247 “**Come Now, O Prince of Peace**” (*stz. 1, 2, 4*)

- 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.
- 4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
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.*

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 278 **“Away in a Manger”**

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

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 267 “Joy to the World” (stz. 1, 3, 4)

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

THE DISMISSAL

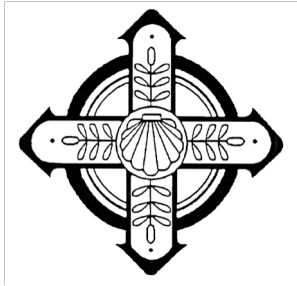
P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (*Omitted during Advent*)

Assisting Minister: Howard Gray
Reader: Nancy Gray
Ushers: Jim Tomsovic, Richard VanderSchaaf
Communion: Ian Brown
Altar: Audrey Russell
Coffee: Howard and Nancy Gray
Nursery: Iris Villa, Zach Sparks

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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

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