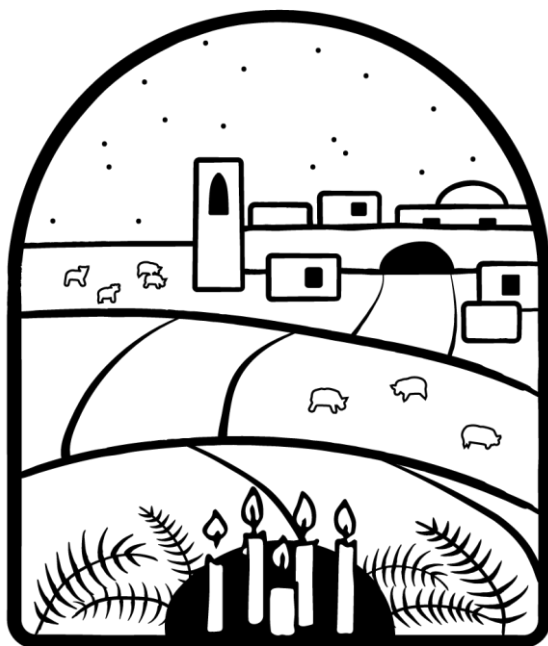


Sunday & Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**ADVENT**  
**IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

**IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH**



**ST. PAUL**

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

## IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH

*The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent!*

*The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus.*

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Service Setting 3, CW p. 188

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1–3

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

CW 327 st. 4

## **The Word**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

*Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.*

<sup>1</sup>The desert and the parched land will be glad;

the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup>it will burst into bloom;

it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup>say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,

he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution

he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup>Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway will be there;

it will be called the Way of Holiness;

it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;

wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,

nor any ravenous beast;

they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup>and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;

everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,

and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the World. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

**We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

We hear his call to see the light.

**We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Sung to the tune of 'Away in a Manger' (*Sunday School at 10:30*)

***The flame of these candles Brings peace to our night,***

***Reminds us of Jesus The world's only Light.***

***The darkness is ending, Our fears fade away,***

***For God, his Son sending, Will dawn Christmas Day.***

## Second Reading

*James 5:7-11*

*James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

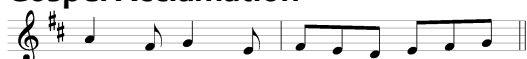
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

CW 194



### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### Tone



### Refrain

Come to us, Em - man - u - el; come and set your peo - ple free.

Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703831

## Gospel & Sermon Text

Matthew 11:2-11

*John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.*

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

<sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'"

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Children's Message**

**Arise, O Christian People**

CW 310

**Sermon**

**Pastor Justin Shrum**

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come 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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

## **Offering**

**When All the World Was Cursed** (8am & 6pm)

CW 317

**Sunday School Anthem** (10:30)

**Emmanuel Medley**

*Jesus, name above all name, beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord; Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

*Emmanuel. Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.*

*Jesus, Name Above All Names and Emmanuel Copyright 1986 Lillenas Publishing Co.*

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord**

CW 315

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### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Preacher: Justin Shrum

Presiding Minister: Matt Holtz

Accompanist: Janna Zornow

Service Teams:

8:00 a.m. Team Paulson; AV: To. Falck

10:30 a.m. Team Abitz; AV: P. Tiedt

6:00 p.m. Team Blob