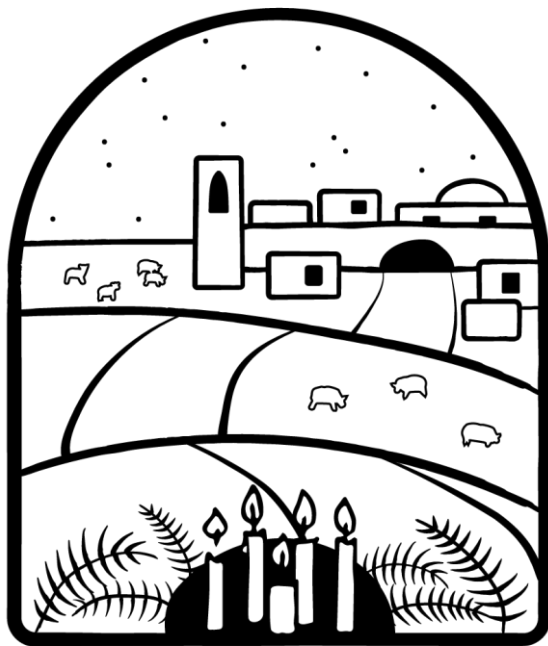


Sunday & Monday December 7th & 8th, 2025



ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE JUDGE



ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE JUDGE

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue.

You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive. John invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! You are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

Note to our Guests about the Lord's Supper:

We are glad you have come to hear God's Word today with us. Through his Word, the Lord speaks of Jesus' forgiveness to us and his peace fills our hearts.

Today we also celebrate the Lord's Supper, which God describes as a unified joint confession of faith in Jesus. Therefore, we ask that only those who have confessed a unified faith with us through membership in a WELS or ELS congregation come up to receive the Lord's Supper. Thank you for respecting our beliefs based on God's Word.

If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper with us in the future, please speak with one of our pastors.

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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.

- ¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
- ³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
- ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
- ⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- ⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
- ⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
- ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;
the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history.
He came into a world of sin and death.

**We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John
the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

We hear his call to repent.

**We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and
desire for renewal.**

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'):

This world sits in darkness, Nor cares for the light,

In sin we were wandering, And cold was the night.

Let all who've discovered The light of God's face

Repent, be delivered By God's saving grace.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

God's people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear.

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,
so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the
encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the
same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that
with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to
bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of
the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the
patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might
glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;

I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

CW 194



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

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

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Gospel & Sermon Text

Matthew 3:1–12

John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of the kingdom of God.

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ ”

⁴John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

CW 316

Sermon

Pastor Matt Holtz

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and

for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared

when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
 heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202



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, grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

As Angels Joyed with One Accord *(Sunday)*

CW 320

Prepare the Royal Highway *(Sunday)*

CW 302

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

In Peace, Lord, You Let Your Servant

CW 968

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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WORSHIP NOTES

Preacher: Matt Holtz

Presiding Minister: Justin Shrum

Accompanist: Stacey Kraus

Service Teams:

8:00 a.m. Team Paulson; AV: P. Tiedt

10:30 a.m. Team Abitz; AV: T. Luehring

6:00 p.m. Team Woehler