

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center
ShepherdHillsChurch.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH-Missouri Synod

1st of Advent | November 29, 2026 | 8 & 10:45 AM

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP *Please quiet voices and prepare to worship.*

LIGHT OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of our Savior Jesus, the Light of the world.
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world."
~John 1:5, 9

PRELUDE O Jesus, So Sweet *S.O.S. singers* *LSB # 546*

You may follow along (and sing along) with the lyrics in the hymnal, # 546.

P = Pastor **C = Congregation** L = Liturgist/Lector

INVOCATION *Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized:
In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION, WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father: Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, LORD, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at Your presence! When You did awesome things that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides You, who acts for those who wait for Him. You meet Him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways.

C: Behold, O LORD, You were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

P: But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

C: Do not be so terribly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS *John 20:19-23*

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

INTROIT ~ ENTRANCE VERSES *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 25:1-2a; 118:26a*

P: Rejoice greatly! Shout aloud! Behold your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

Connect

CONNECT CARDS
Guests and members, please:
¨ fill out a Connect card, or
¨ scan the QR code to connect with us online
Cards are in the racks in front of you.
These methods also include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors. We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with you!

A **CRY ROOM** is located off the Welcome Center.

ACTIVITY BAGS for children to borrow are in the Welcome Center.

DEVOTIONS: *Portals of Prayer* booklets are on the credenza in the Welcome Center for you, and for sharing!

SERVING TODAY…

Message:
Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:
8:00 Pastor Stoltenow

Lector:
10:45 John Hoener

Musicians:
Gail Black, organ
Mary Brown, piano
Sing **O**ne **S**unday singers

TOGETHER

Happy New Year! Today begins a new Church Year—another year to remember, celebrate, and share the story of Jesus, the same story we told hast year and all the years before that, but with one important difference:
Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ~Romans 13:11

Advent Wreath: Candles remind us Jesus Christ came to conquer sin's darkness and to lead us into the light of His glorious Kingdom. The greenery represents new life we have in Christ because of His coming to bring us the gift of salvation. The circle symbolizes eternity—our certain hope of the gift of heaven Jesus won for us by His death and resurrection.
In the beginning was the Word…and the Word was God. In Him was life and the life was the light of all. ~John 1

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen!

KYRIE ~ LORD [HAVE MERCY] *Mark 10:47*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: For the peace from above and for our salvation; for the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all; for this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
ALL: Amen!

SALUTATION (GREETING) AND COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you!
C: And also with you!
P: We pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen!

Please be seated.

HYMN # 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace to'enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with Thy beloved name.

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. The cards may be given to an usher or placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CHAT *Sam Scheck*

Children's Bulletins are on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.

OFFERING AND PRAYER *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSE

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN # 341:1-3 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise. **---->>>**

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise your happy shouts of praise.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

ACCLAMATION

L: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 11:1-10

L: Now when Jesus and His disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting,

ALL: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

L: And Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

RESPONSE

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Please refer to the hymnal for the tune and lyrics.

MESSAGE **"Christmas in the OT: Answered Plea"** text: Isaiah 64:1-9

Please stand as together we confess our faith, encouraging one another: We do not stand alone.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our

Gospel Reading: This story of entering Jerusalem occurs at the beginning of the week Jesus is crucified.

Holy Gospel: This new Church Year is Year B in our Lectionary series. This means many of the Gospel readings will be from the Gospel of Mark.
Year A: Matthew
Year B: Mark
Year C: Luke
The Gospel of John is included in all three years. See LSB p. xvi for the list of readings for this Church Year.

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Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
~Psalm 27:14

The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion. This creed has been in use for over 1700 years!



salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen!

Please be seated for the prayers.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

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PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:28-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

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Please stand.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

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 Him thanks and praise!

PROPER PREFACE FOR ADVENT

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ HOLY *Mark 11:9b-10*

ALL: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

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!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD *John 20:19*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
C: And also with you!

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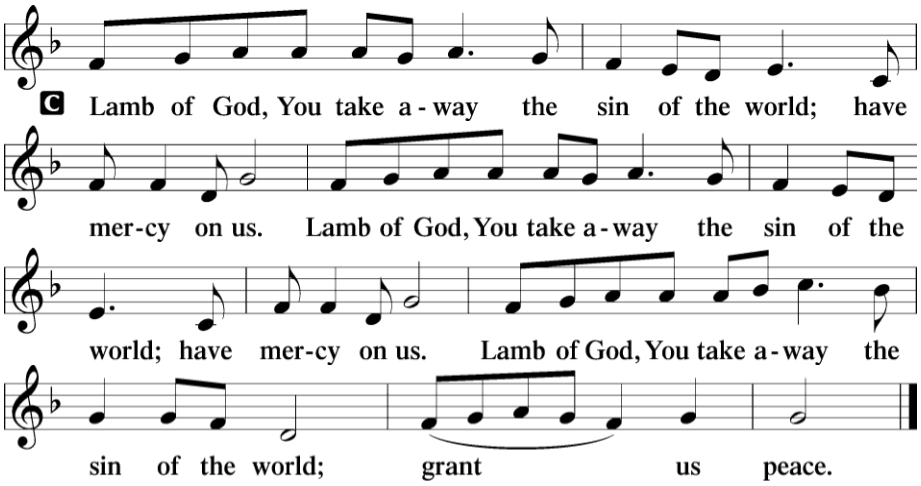
Advent means *coming*. The appointed Scripture readings during Advent call out to us to prepare for the Savior's coming. It is a time to remember, repent, rejoice. It is a time to invite others to prepare with us.
Christ has come—that first CHRISTmas.
Christ comes to us today—in His Word and Sacraments for forgiveness, salvation, and renewed life.
Christ will come again—on the Last Day, to take all believers in Christ to be with Him forever. God has promised; God keeps His promises.
AMEN Come, Lord Jesus!

AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29



Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

You will be ushered forward for Communion.

- ♦ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ♦ If you are not communing but wish to receive a blessing, please keep your hands folded.
- ♦ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn for meditation: # 350 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and never depart, though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine when Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament.

C: We ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.



Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, Jesus is Our All!

Come, Lord Jesus,
be our Guest,
and let these gifts of
forgiveness,
renewed life,
and salvation
to us be blessed.
Amen!

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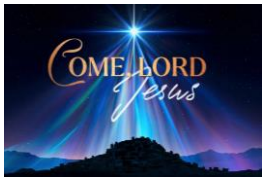
In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and HIStory!



Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me; and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!

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You shall call His name Jesus [which means "the Lord is salvation"], for He will save His people from their sins.
~Matthew 1:21

HYMN # 341:4-5 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame we offer to Thy name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON

TOGETHER: God Is With Us is the theme for our Advent and CHRISTmas season. Immanuel means "God is with us." The prophet Isaiah foretold the Savior's coming when he said: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." *(Isaiah 7:14)* After Jesus rose and just before He ascended to heaven, He promised: "I am with you always." *(Matt. 28:20)* As we finish the year 2026, we celebrate this eternal truth: we are never alone, because **God Is With Us**!

Sundays in Advent/CHRISTmas
Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27
8 & 10:45am Traditional | 10:45am Contemporary



CHRISTmas Eve Candlelight
Traditional: 3pm | 7pm, Sanctuary
Contemporary: 5pm, Gym
CHRISTmas Eve Vigil: ***new time!***), Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper

CHRISTmas Day 10am, Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper

Epiphany January 6, 2027 | 7pm, Sanctuary, with the Lord's Supper

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Early Learning Center
"A Little Nativity"
Thursday, Dec. 10 | 6pm, Gym
Sweet Treat Reception following the program

Sunday School Students
"TOGETHER at the Manger"
Sunday, Dec. 20 | 10:45am, Gym

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