



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

OF THE MESSIAH

WELCOME



Worship Series: Advent Imminent Arrival

December 14, 2025

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

Today's Focus: 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.

Opening Hymn

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. (Refrain)
- Ref Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free.
- 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. (Refrain)
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring. (Refrain)
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne. (Refrain)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Text: Public domain

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

Confession

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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

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.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

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

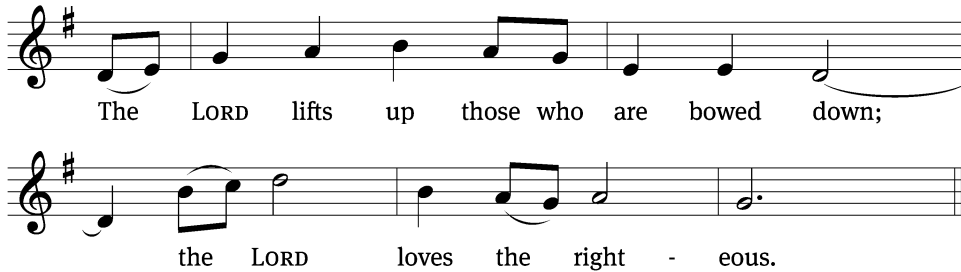
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 146

The Church sings Psalm 146 in services that emphasize repentance and forgiveness through faith in Jesus.

Refrain



Tone



I will praise the LORD / all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.
Do not put your trust in / princes,
in human beings, who / cannot save.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
and gives food to the / hungry.
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.
The LORD reigns for- / ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Second Reading

James 5:7–11

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



I will send my messenger a - head of you,



Refrain

who will prepare your way be - fore you.

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Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
 your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
 a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
 De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
 He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
 who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
 his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
 send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

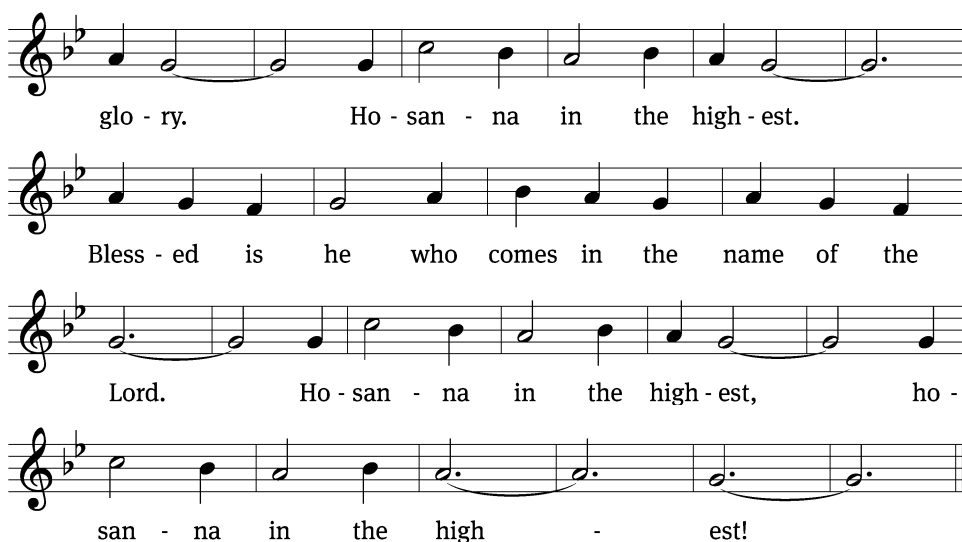
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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





Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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 \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

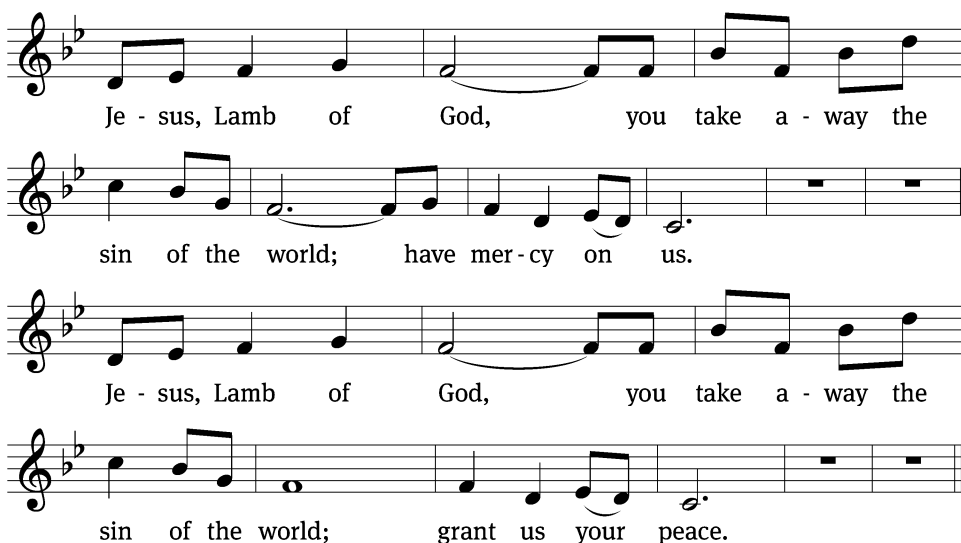
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God



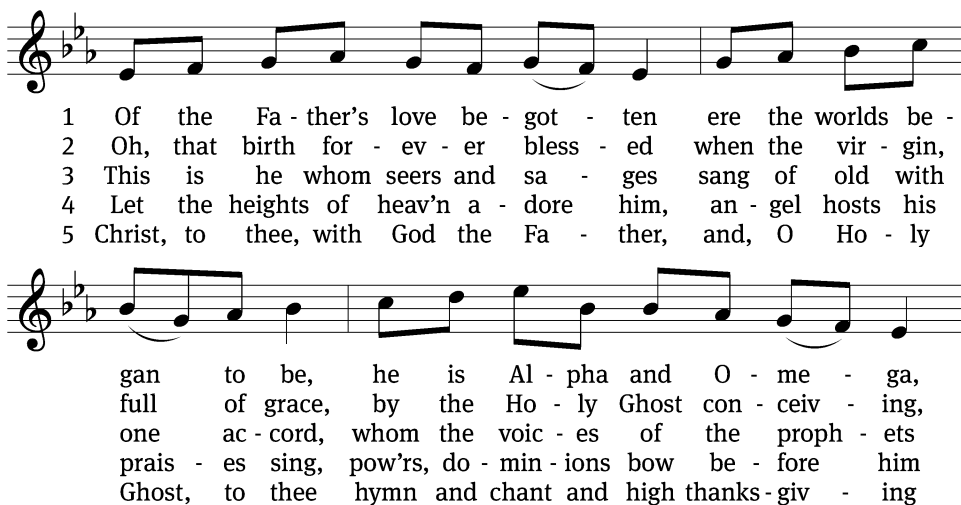


Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen
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Distribution Hymn

358 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he,
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
and ex - tol our God and King.
and un - end - ing prais - es be,

of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion

and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined to an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing, and in your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion, but you are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing that your true bod - y



and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
they be - hold your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
ev - 'ry - where and with your con - gre - ga - tion.
and your blood our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



as wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, we come to
and though your peo - ple shall not see your glo - ry
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, un - moved by
This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, and there is



you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
and your maj - es - ty till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
an - y dar - ing hand or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
naught you can - not do, for you, Lord, are al - might - y.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand,
yet faith this truth embraces:
your body, Lord, is even now
at once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be;
your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.

- 6 Lord, I believe what you have said;
help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
and let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
refreshes me and stills my fears
and is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
your supper, Lord, our Savior,
and, truly grieving for our sins,
may prove by our behavior
that we are thankful for your grace
and day by day may run our race,
in holiness increasing.
- 8 For your consoling supper, Lord,
be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
the world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
a blessèd comfort unto me
when living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–1668; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.
Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630–c. 1692, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.

Closing Hymn

519 There Is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

REFRAIN

Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on the earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.
(Refrain)

When I stand in glory,
I will see his face;
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.
(Refrain)

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Preaching Minister:** Pastor Kenneth Frey

Organist: Ben Warmuth | **Elder:** Jerry Thompson

Altar Guild: Jan Lazzaroni | **Projectionist:** Spencer Sonnemann

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

Worship | 9:00am

MIDWEEK ADVENT

December 3, 10, 17

Meal | 5:30pm

Worship | 6:30pm

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OUR MISSION

As a family of believers, the mission of First Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by growing in the faith of our Savior Jesus Christ and by sharing the good news of His Word with others.

OUR INVITATION

It is a privilege for us to share with you the assurance Jesus offers about how imperfect people like us can enjoy a right relationship with our holy Creator.

Our church services are designed to be Christ-centered worship and include three main elements: God speaks to us in His Word, we respond with praises and prayers, and we encourage each other.

We are eager to have you learn more about the Triune God and about our church. If you are looking for a spiritual family in which you can be at home, please speak with our pastor.