



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL
OF THE JUDGE

WELCOME



Worship Series: Advent Imminent Arrival

December 7, 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 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.

Opening Hymn

311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation



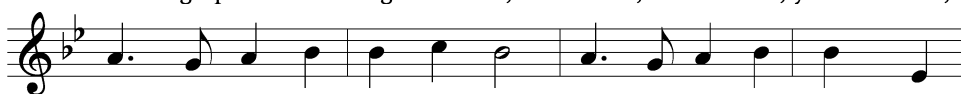
1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal
2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and



shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in
lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your



paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,
sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;



long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would
life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him



save us from the hands of all our foes.
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

Refrain



Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain

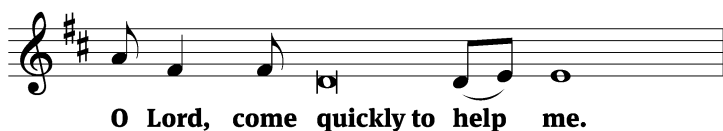
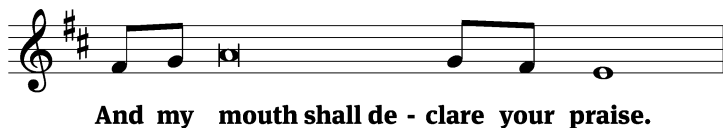
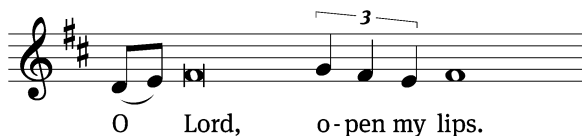


be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;



all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

Opening Sentences



Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1995, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

Pastor will sing the verses. The congregation will sing the refrains.

Refrain





let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,

2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,



Refrain

you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Psalm 63

Refrain



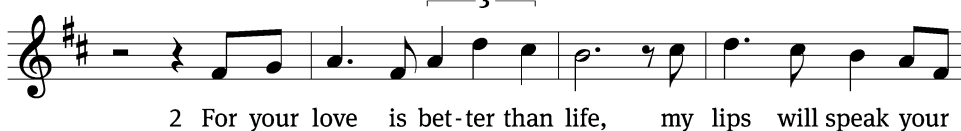
In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

Verse



1 O God, you are my God; for you I long; for
you my soul is thirst-ing. My bod-y pines for you like a
dry, wea-ry land with-out wa-ter. So I gaze on you in the
sanc-tu-ar-y to see your strength and your glo-ry.

Verse



2 For your love is bet-ter than life, my lips will speak your

praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your
 name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a
 ban-quet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. *Refrain*

Verse

3 On my bed I re-mem-ber you. On you I
 muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the
 shad-ow of your wings I re-joice. My soul clings to
 you; your right hand holds me fast. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1-3): © 1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
 Text (Ref) and tune: © 1995, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

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

The Word of the Lord.


Thanks be to God.

Psalm


Psalm 130




1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord, hear my
2 Your par - don is a gift of love, your grace a -
3 Though great our sins and sore our woes his grace much



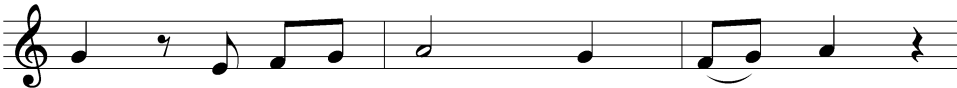
voice of plead - ing; bend down your gra - cious ear, I
lone must save us; our works will not re - move our
more a - bound - eth; his help - ing love no lim - it



pray, your hum - ble ser - vant heed - ing. If you re -
guilt, the strict - est life would fail us. Let none in
knows, our ut - most need it sound - eth. Our kind and



mem - ber each mis - deed, and of each thought and word take
deeds or mer - its boast, but let us own the Ho - ly
faith - ful Shep - herd he, who will set all his peo - ple



heed, who can re - main be - fore you?
Ghost for he a - lone can change us:
free from all their sin and sor - row:



On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.
On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.
On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.

Text: Martin Luther
Tune: David Ward
Tune: © 2002 Hymnicity. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

You Are God; We Praise You

Congregation will sing opening refrain, bolded words in each verse, and the refrain after each verse.

Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you. To

to Verses



you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



- 1 With the an - gels in heav - en, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 2 Cre - a - tor of all things, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 3 O — Christ, King of glo - ry, **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, **we praise you, we praise you!**

O — Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **we praise you, we praise you!**

You be - came a man to set us free; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With a - pos - tles and proph - ets, **we praise you, we praise you!**

O — Spir - it, most ho - ly, **we praise you, we praise you!**

You have ris - en to free us; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the mar - tyrs and your ho - ly Church, **we sing in end - less praise!**

To the Trin - i - ty most bless - ed, **we sing in end - less praise!**

And with all your saints in glo - ry, **we sing in end - less praise!**

Offering

WELS Connection

Lord, Have Mercy

In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be
mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer
Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130002372

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.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Prayer for Grace

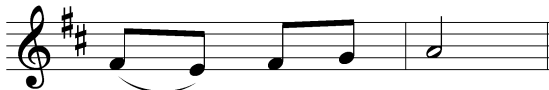
O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Benedicamus



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Blessing



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.



The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



A - men.

Text: Marty Haugen
Text and tune: © 1995, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Closing Hymn

318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt

Accompanist: Robert Joseph | **Elder:** Drew Sherman

Altar Guild: Kelly Schwartz | **Projectionist:** Margie Smith

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer (alternate) from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



1101 Logan Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
Phone: (262) 248-3374
Email: church@FirstLutheranWELS.org
www.FirstLutheranWELS.org

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

Worship | 9:00am

MIDWEEK ADVENT

December 3, 10, 17

Meal | 5:30pm

Worship | 6:30pm

OUR STAFF

Pastor Derek Bartelt
Principal Stephen Kamps

Office Administrator Steven Davis

(cell) 262-215-0765

(cell) 414-213-8699

(cell) 262-903-7080

pastorbartelt@FirstLutheranWELS.org

mrkamps@lakegenevachristian.com

church@FirstLutheranWELS.org

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.