

And may the Lord

make you increase

and abound in love to

one another and to all,

just as we do to you...

1 Thessalonians 3:12 NKJV



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As We Gather

As we gather this Advent season, our hearts are drawn to the promise of Christ's return. In today's service, we are reminded that our hope is not in striving to be "good enough" but in the blamelessness that Christ freely gives. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He has taken our blame and clothed us in His holiness. Let us worship with joy and thanksgiving, confident that we are forgiven and prepared for His glorious coming.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

72 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord, as we begin this season of Advent, we are reminded of Christ's coming in humility and His return in glory. The apostle Paul prays that we may be established blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, come before God in repentance, confessing our sins and seeking His mercy, that our hearts may be prepared for His coming.
- C** **Almighty God, we come before You with humble hearts, confessing that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to watch and pray, to walk in holiness, and to abound in love toward others as You command. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who came to redeem us and prepare us for His return, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may stand blameless before You on the day of His coming.**
- P** Upon this, your confession, I, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, announce the grace of God to you. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and through His death and resurrection, He has made you holy in the sight of God. Therefore, as we await His glorious return, hear this promise: In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18

- P** Who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD?
C **Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD**
P Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
C **Mercy and truth go before Your face.**
P Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!
C **They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.**
P In Your name they rejoice all day long,
C **And in Your righteousness they are exalted.**
P For our shield belongs to the LORD,
C **And our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-ershall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a simple, accessible style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One, Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.'

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...
... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: ¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS'

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25:1-10

- P** To You, O LORD,
C **I lift up my soul.**
P O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed;
C **Let not my enemies triumph over me.**
P Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed;
C **Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.**
P Show me Your ways, O LORD;
C **Teach me Your paths.**
P Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation;
C **On You I wait all the day.**
P Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses,
C **For they are from of old.**
P Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;
C **According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.**
P Good and upright is the LORD;
C **Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.**
P The humble He guides in justice,
C **And the humble He teaches His way.**
P All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth,
C **To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. ³¹ And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' " ³² So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. ³³ But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of him." ³⁵ Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. ³⁶ And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. ³⁷ Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, ³⁸ saying: " 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the

LORD!’ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”³⁹ And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”⁴⁰ But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

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 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.

Hymn

95 – Savior of the Nations, Come

Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ,

direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.



Sermon

Blameless at Christ's Coming

Offertory

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of five staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho-ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

Hymn

57 – O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

Offering



Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

- C** 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 Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

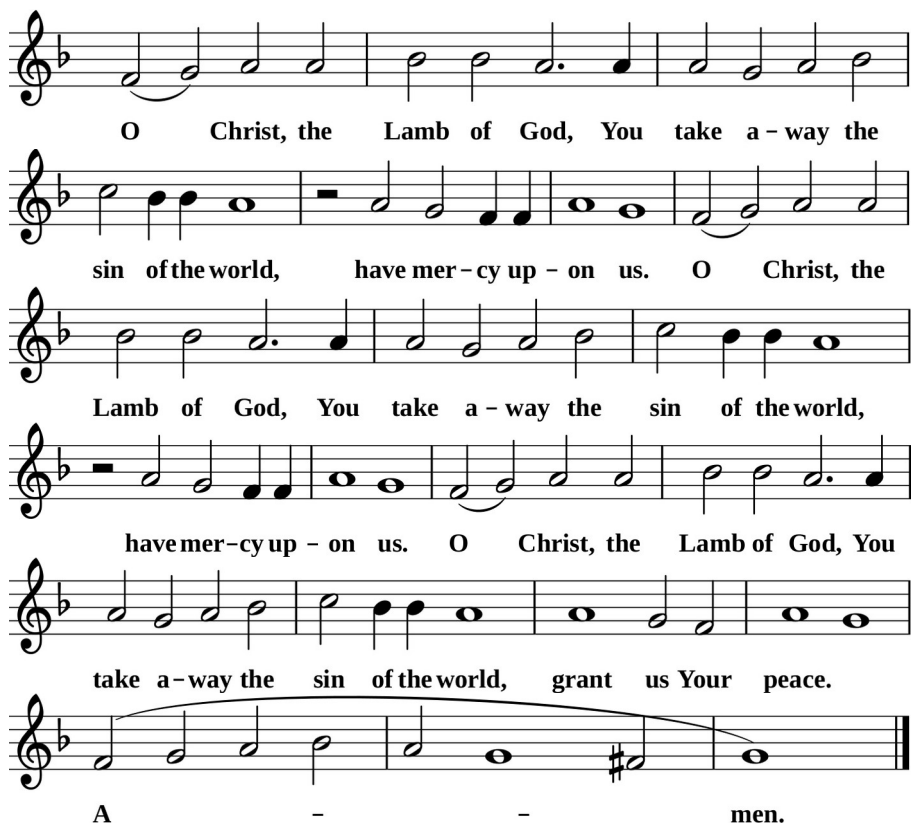
P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.



Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
A - - men.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for -
ev - er - more. A - men.


Nunc Dimittis
SONG OF SIMEON

Thanksgiving

P Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

C For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You 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. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

73 – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

December 1	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck
	12:30 pm	Education/Trustees/Church Council
December 4	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
December 11	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 13	10:30 am	Learning with Littles Playgroup
December 15	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 1** – Education/Trustees/Church Council
- **January 5** – Annual Voters’ Meeting
- **February 2** – Elders

In Our Prayers: We continue to pray for Melissa Proctor. Her surgery took place on Monday, and everything seems to have gone well. We thank the Lord for His blessings and pray for her continued healing and recovery in His care.

Sunday Advent Worship Series – A Real Christmas: A parent says, “I want to give my kids a real Christmas.” What do you think that parent means? Perhaps they are thinking of trimming a freshly cut tree, finding the perfect presents, or spending the holidays with extended family. Perhaps they are thinking about all those things. “Then it will be a real Christmas!”

Certainly, all those are wonderful things. However, none of them are what makes Christmas real. The sad truth is Christmas is the most beloved holiday of so many, yet so few know what Christmas is really about.

If you want a real Christmas, then you need to observe Advent. Advent is Latin for “coming.” In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time He will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

Our worship in the season of Advent follows this path:

- **First Sunday in Advent (December 1)**
A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came
Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- **Second Sunday in Advent (December 8)**
A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance
Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-14
- **Third Sunday in Advent (December 15)**
A Real Christmas Restores Hope in a Broken World
Sermon Text: Luke 7:18-28
- **Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 22)**
A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly
Sermon Text: Luke 1:39-55

Join us in worship this Advent season to prepare for a truly meaningful celebration of our Savior's birth!

Advent Midweek Services: "The Christmas Trees of Scripture": The most widely recognized symbol of the season—the Christmas tree—has deep connections to our faith. While other religions used evergreen branches to symbolize eternal life, it was the Lutherans of 16th-century Germany who began the tradition of bringing evergreen trees indoors during the holidays. They adorned the trees with red ornaments, representing the blood of Christ, and with candles, symbolizing the light of Christ. The tree was often topped with a star or angel, pointing to the story of Jesus' birth. The Christmas tree is a cherished part of our celebration of Christ's coming.

In our Midweek Advent Services, we will focus on some "Christmas trees" found in Scripture. These are not evergreens, nor are they decorated with lights or ornaments, but they point us to the Christ and the salvation He brings. These trees remind us why the birth of Jesus Christ is so worthy of celebration.

Service Schedule and Themes:

- **Midweek One** – December 4 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Genesis 3:1-15
Theme: The Tree of Rebellion
- **Midweek Two** – December 11 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Isaiah 11:1-10
Theme: The Tree of Promise
- **Midweek Three** – December 18 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Revelation 22:1-5
Theme: The Tree of Life

Join us as we reflect on these trees and the life and hope we have in Christ this Advent season!

Christmas Candy Bags: We are preparing, once again, to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our congregation through Christmas Candy Bags. Please consider donating candy for this effort. Donations can be placed on the conference table in Pastor’s office.

CLC Call News: Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI has returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith November 24, 2024		Attendance: WH – 25; ORL – 11	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>	
\$455.30	General Budget	\$5.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	\$57.69	Weekly Need
-\$967.70	-Under / +Over	-\$52.69	-Under / +Over
\$71,389.71	Year to Date Offerings	\$2,830.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$66,881.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,538.36	Year to Date Need
+\$4,508.71	Year to Date (+/-)	+\$118.57	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund	\$10.00	ILC Student Aid Fund
\$5.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship
	Outreach		ILC Tour Choir
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest

Learning with Littles - Fall Semester Recap

We've had a wonderful fall semester of Learning with Littles! We've averaged 12 "littles" per session, with a total of 33 different children from 22 families joining us for Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and free play on the church lawn.

We're thankful for the support of our church family, including prayers, snack donations, and help at the sessions. A generous grant from the CLC Mission Board allowed us to purchase outdoor toddler toys and equipment, and we're excited to soon have a new shed for toy storage.

Our last fall session is December 13, and we'll continue to meet the second and fourth Fridays, January through May.

PS: Check out our webpage: www.WinterHavenLutheran.com/Littles, and please follow us on Facebook to help us reach more families!





Advent Devotion: Waiting in Hope

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:3-5 NKJV)

Advent is a season of waiting. We light candles, sing carols, and read prophecies that point to the coming of Christ. It is a time to prepare our hearts, not just for the celebration of Jesus' birth, but for His promised return. The world sees waiting as a burden. Yet, for Christians, waiting is an exercise in hope.

The apostle Paul reminds us that hope is not idle or empty. It is not the wishful thinking of a world that crosses its fingers, hoping for luck. No, hope is rooted in God's faithfulness and fueled by His promises. Paul connects hope with perseverance, a quality forged in tribulation. As we endure trials, our character is refined, and hope is deepened. This hope, Paul declares, "does not disappoint."

Why? Because our hope is anchored in the love of God, a love so profound that He sent His only Son to redeem us. Advent is the story of this love, from the promise spoken in Eden to the cry of a baby in Bethlehem. Every moment of waiting throughout Scripture—from Abraham's longing for a son, to Israel's yearning for deliverance, to the centuries of silence before Jesus' birth—reveals God's faithfulness to His promises. He always comes through.

As we wait during this Advent season, we do so with the confidence that God is at work. Our world, like our hearts, may often feel weary and broken. But God's Word assures us that Christ is coming again. The King who entered our world in humility will return in glory to make all things new.

So, as we light each candle this Advent, let it remind us of the light of Christ that shines in the darkness. Let it rekindle our hope in His promises, for He has not abandoned us. He is with us now, and He will come again.

While we wait, we live as those transformed by His love, reflecting His light in a darkened world. And as we persevere, we do so with this blessed assurance: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13 NKJV)

Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 2 - December 7

Monday: Luke 1:5-25 – How did God prepare for Christmas? He sent an angel to announce the coming of the promised forerunner, John. Even Zechariah's doubt could not hinder God's plan to bring hope and salvation through Jesus. Consider how God's promises remain certain even when human faith falters.

Tuesday: Colossians 1:15-23 – Jesus, the image of the invisible God, is not only the agent of creation but also the Redeemer of all things. Through His blood shed on the cross, we are reconciled and made holy. This Advent, let this truth deepen your worship and anticipation of His coming.

Wednesday: Isaiah 40:1-11 – The prophet foretells a voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord. God's comfort and mercy come to His people through the tender shepherding of His promised Messiah. Reflect on how Christ gently leads and carries you as one of His lambs.

Thursday: Genesis 3:1-15 – The tragedy of the Fall reminds us of humanity's disobedience, which brought sin and death into the world. In response, God gave His first Gospel promise, assuring that a Savior would come to crush the serpent's head. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, whose coming brings victory over sin and death for all people.

Friday: Psalm 85 – This psalm beautifully combines the themes of Advent—repentance, restoration, and hope. God's steadfast love and faithfulness meet in Christ, the One who brings peace and salvation. As you prepare for His coming, pray for His righteousness to dwell in your heart.

Saturday: Proverbs 8:22-36 – The Wisdom of God speaks of its role in creation and delight in humanity. Christ, the eternal Word, is this Wisdom personified (John 1:1-14). As we celebrate His incarnation, let us rejoice that He became flesh to rescue and redeem us.



