

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 6 and 7, 2025



THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. David O. Stecker (5:00)
Rev. Chad E. Hoover (8:00, 10:30)

Lector: Seminarian Adam Holtz

Organist: Doug Reynolds, Director of Parish Music

Choir: CLS Cherubim Choir (10:30)

Acolytes: Luke Melcher, Sophia Russell (8:00)
Viviana Hernandez, Hannah Minden (10:30)

Elder: John Colter (5:00)
Mike Sweet (8:00, 10:30)

Ushers: Group S2 (Gary Nahrwold) (5:00)
Group 1 (Sam Bender) (8:00)
Group 2 (Ben Koeneman) (10:30)

Communion Assistant: Ben Oberlin (5:00)
Ryan Abbott (8:00)
Brian Lepper (10:30)

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Central Lutheran School

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Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians
joyfully dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

† The Second Sunday in Advent †
Divine Service I with Communion – LSB page 151

WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord’s Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY *(Everyone, please sign in! We ask guests to include your address, zip code and phone number so that we may acknowledge your visit.)*

AS WE GATHER ~ The problem with good works is not *that* we should do them but *why*. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God’s mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

PRELUDE

GREETING AND RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *Prepare the Royal Highway* **LSB 343**
At the 10:30 a.m. service, the choir will sing verse 1.

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: **Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God’s Word!**

God’s people, see Him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev’ry nation its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain*

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

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INVOCATION - Page 151 ↑

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

(Matthew 28:19)

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION - Page 151 ↑

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(1 John 1:8-9)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

(John 20:19-23)

People: **Amen.**

INTROIT FOR THE DAY ↑

(Psalm 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b)

Pastor: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Pastor: Seek the Lord and his strength;

People: **seek his presence continually!**

Pastor: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

People: **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

Pastor: O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

People: **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

Pastor: He is the Lord our God;

People: **his judgments are in all the earth.**

Pastor: He remembers his covenant forever,

People: **the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

EPISTLE READING ↓**Romans 15:4-13 (ESV)**

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ VERSE – Page 156 ↑

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL READING ↑**Matthew 3:1-12 (ESV)**

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

♪ People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ People: Praise to you, O Christ.

♪ HYMN OF THE DAY ↓***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry******LSB 344***

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Lay on the sick Thy healing hand and make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face till beauty springs in ev'ry place.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee whose advent sets Thy people free.
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.**

SERMON ↓

**(5:00) *The Prophet's Proclamation*
(8:00, 10:30) *Promised Peace***

NICENE CREED - Page 158 ↑

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ↑

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)



We welcome the opportunity to explain what we believe, teach and confess regarding the Lord's Supper. In order not to impose those beliefs on you, we ask that if you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, you would speak with a Pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

♪ PREFACE - Page 160 ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right and salutary.....evermore praising you and saying:

♪ SANCTUS - Page 161 ↑

(Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING ~ Page 161 ↑

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER ~ Page 162 ↑

(Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD - Page 162 ↑

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

♪ PAX DOMINI - Page 163 ↑

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

(John 20:19)

♪ AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God” - Page 163 ↑

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(John 1:29)

♪ DISTRIBUTION ↓

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**LSB 347*

"Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
 "Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
 Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over."

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
 All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.
 She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
 God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

Hark, the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
 Calling sinners to repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.
 O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
 Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.
 Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.
 For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
 And all flesh shall see the token that His Word is never broken.

*What Hope! An Eden Prophesied**LSB 342*

What hope! An Eden prophesied where tame live with the wild;
 The lamb and lion side by side, led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, a branch from David's line,
 A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: the fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
 That by His death a dying world would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, lost Paradise restore;
 Lead past the angel's flaming sword – come, open heaven's door.

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**LSB 338*

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.
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,
 Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king!
 Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

BLESSING – Page 164 ↑

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in
 body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

People: Amen.

♪ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE - Page 164 ↑

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
 He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
 Alleluia, alleluia.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT - Page 166 ↑

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this
 salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us
 through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;
 through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

♪ BENEDICTION - Page 166 ↑

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

♪ CLOSING HYMN ↑

*Arise, O Christian People**LSB 354*

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
 Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
 To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;
 The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before Him; prepare for Him the best.
 Cast out what would offend Him, this great, this heav'nly guest.
 Make straight, make plain the way: the lowly valleys raising,
 The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
 Beneath His feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie.
 The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation
 And makes true preparation – it is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive You this blessed Advent-tide.
 From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;
 I'll sing Your praises gladly and forth Your glory show.

POSTLUDE