

**Family of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Advent 2**  
**December 7, 2025**

**Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests**

**Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good!

**God's mercy endures forever.**

Beloved, as we move through this season of waiting and watching, let us together confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection*

God of steadfast love, **we confess that we turn away from your promises to follow false gods of power and wealth. We allow ourselves to wither away; our songs of praise becoming silent on our lips as we trample your creation and take your gifts of life for granted. We seek out shadows to hide our faults, refusing to accept your full gift of grace. Forgive us. Protect us. Revive us. Help us to believe so that we may be ready on the day of your return. Amen.**

God does not let us stand alone or languish. We abide in the assurance of God's steadfast love; + forgiven and freed by grace upon grace, we are renewed and restored to welcome the Son of God. **Amen**

## **Gathering Hymn: ELW 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

### **Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!**



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

*Please be seated*

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

When we are forsaken, hearts and souls parched,  
**your Spirit moves among us, calling us to hope.**

Even as death's reign seems certain,  
**may we feel resurrection's promise stir to life within us.**

We light the second candle of this wreath to watch for your  
promised life-giving presence in our midst.

### **Sing verse 2 Advent Candle Lighting: *Chesed (to the tune Love Has Come ELW 292)***

**Love will come to bring new life within us!**

**Love will come to raise us from the dust.**

**Feel the breath of the Spirit upon us,  
bringing us hope for God's tomorrow!**

**Love! Love! God's steadfast love is with us!**

**Love! Love! Sing praise to God on high!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Breath of life, you speak life into our desolate and weary places.

**Your love endures beyond death and despair.**

When our hope has turned to dust, you re-create us and call us  
to live again.

**Breathe your Spirit on us, that we may rise in faith and  
courage.**

As we await the coming of Christ, fill us with your life-giving  
power and renew our trust in your promises. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,

and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 118:1, 10-18, 29**

**<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.**

<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me;  
in the name of the LORD I drove them off!

**<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me, indeed they surrounded me;  
in the name of the LORD I drove them off!**

<sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees and blazed like a fire of  
thorns;  
in the name of the LORD I drove them off!

**<sup>13</sup> I was pressed and pressed to the point of falling,  
but the LORD came to my help.**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

**<sup>15</sup> Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the  
righteous:**

**"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

**<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

### Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



### **Gospel: John 11:25-26**

The holy Gospel according to John.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day: *Lost in the Night* ELW 243**

1 Lost in the night do the people yet languish,  
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,  
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish.  
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

2 Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?  
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,  
giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?  
Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?

3 Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling,  
dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,  
death's deepest shadows forever dispelling.  
Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!

4 Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;  
rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,  
bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming.  
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us confess our faith in the God of enduring love.

**We believe in God, whose steadfast love endures for all time.**

**From the beginning, God, with a Word, set creation in motion,**

Light and life,

a gift and a covenant

A promise to never leave us on our own.

**Through the ages, we witness to the power of God's  
presence:**

Standing in the fire, protecting us from cruel worldly  
powers;

Breathing new life into our dry bones;

Sparking our songs of joyful justice and mercy;

Giving us the power to become the children of God.

**In the quiet of the night, we experience the good news of the  
Christ Child:**

Born in a humble manger,

Word made flesh,

Prince of Peace,

The one who brings salvation,

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**As we await the fullness of time, we are alive with the Spirit:**

Proclaiming justice for the poor and oppressed,

Sharing the good news of great joy for all people,

Living bound to extravagant grace,

Loving neighbors with the same love we have received.

**From age to age, generation to generation, we carry on in  
faith, for we believe God's steadfast love endures forever.**

*Please be seated*

**Prayers of the People**



In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of steadfast love,

**hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of steadfast love,

**hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of steadfast love,

**hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease, especially those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift before you now, either silently or aloud (*brief pause*). Breathe new life into the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of steadfast love,

**hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance,

reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ.  
God of steadfast love,  
**hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith,  
especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. Fill us with the hope of the  
Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of steadfast love,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

### **Offering Is Collected**

### **Offering and Elements Are Brought to the Table**

### **Offering Song:**

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

### *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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## **Offering Prayer**

Generous God, **you have lavished us with your lovingkindness.**  
**Bless these gifts we offer, that they may become hands of**  
**mercy, voices of hope, and signs of your enduring grace.**  
**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **Communion**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

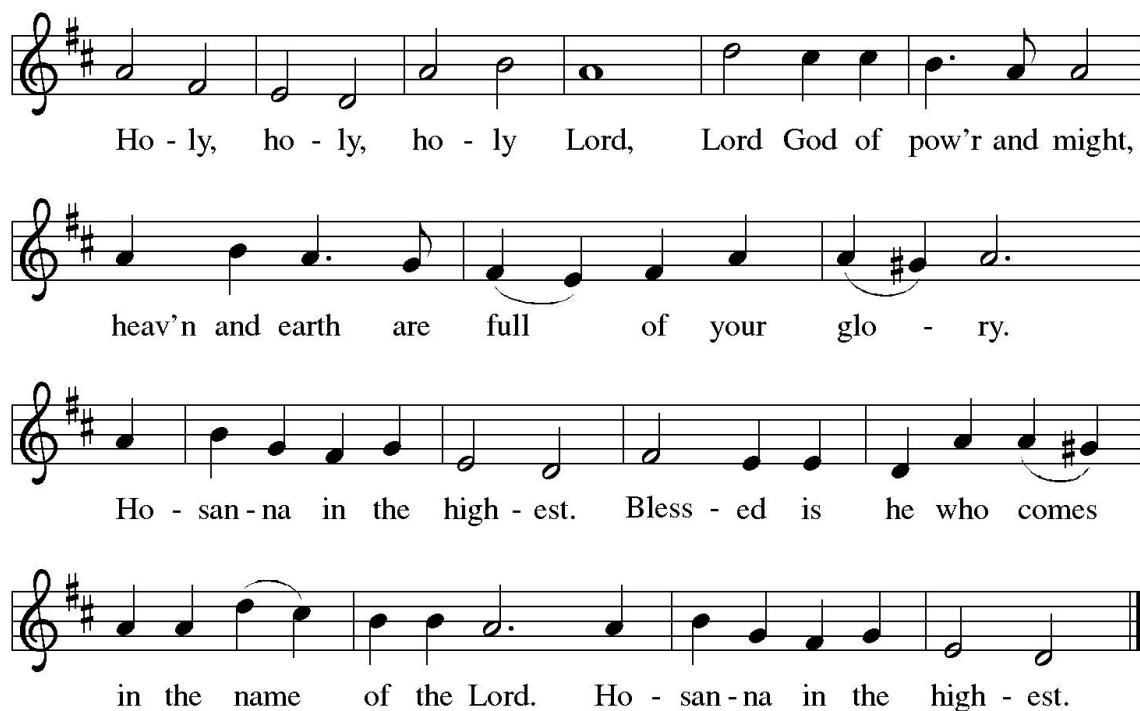
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy are you, God of enduring love. You created the world in all of its beauty, forming us from the dust to be caretakers, made in your image to share your love with all creation. When we found ourselves in exile, burned with the fires of oppression, you stood with us, sheltering us, assuring our safety and showing the world the power of your love.

As we failed, time and again, to live as your people, you called to us through the prophets, breathing new life into our dry bones, showing us how to live through your Spirit.

Even when we showed we preferred the shadows to your Light, you still sent your Son, Word made Flesh, to live among us, and to bring us the fullness of grace.

In the night in which Jesus was handed over, He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it. He gave it to the disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup. When he had given thanks he gave for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, the fullness of his love for us, shown in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his promised coming to make all things new. Shower us with your Holy Spirit, that through this bread and wine we share we may be strengthened to sing of the greatness of God and to work for justice and peace in all the earth. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, in your holy Church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught

US:

### **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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Friends in Christ, God invites all people to this table of mercy and grace, where Christ meets us in bread and wine. Here, the weary find rest, the hopeful are renewed, and all are welcomed into the love of God. Come, not because you are perfect, but because God's love is perfect and given freely. **Amen.**

### **Communion Hymn: ELW 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.

2 For the herald's voice is crying

in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.

- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Steadfast God, **you have met us again at this table of grace and fed us with love that endures beyond fear and failure. As you have dwelt among us in Christ—light in the darkness, bread for the journey, hope for the weary—send us forth in your Spirit to love boldly, serve faithfully, and proclaim your goodness to all creation. Through the Incarnate One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

We stand in the fire,

**and God is present there with us.**

We find new life in the valleys,

**because God's unending love sparks hope in our dry bones.**

We sing of a world turned up-side down,

**proclaiming that God's love changes everything.**

We await the promised coming of the Word made flesh,

**that we may witness to God's lasting love.**

And may the Spirit of Love surround us; may the Creator of all sustain us; and may the promised + Son of light and life dispel the shadows around and within us, from this day forth and forever more. **Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn: ELW 254 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.

Israel's strength and consolation,

hope of all the earth thou art,

dear desire of ev'ry nation,

joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 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.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Announcements:**

- **Midweek Advent Services:** Dec. 10, 17, 7 p.m. Light refreshments after worship.
- **Hanging of the Greens:** Today! Dec. 7th. Plan to stay after worship to help decorate the church for the season.
- **Resin Class:** Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, please sign up
- **Christmas Eve Worship:** Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
- **Annual Meeting:** Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, right after worship

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Pastor Jane Brda, SAM  
Ellen Mueller — Music

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