

**Family of Christ Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024**

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, our God, who guides our feet into the way of peace.

Let us rejoice and be glad! Amen!

Now is the time to bear fruit worthy of repentance. Let us, therefore, confess our sin in the midst of God's beloved.

Silence for reflection

Divine Peacemaker, **we confess that we prefer to flee from our sins, pretending that our actions are just and good, while keeping others bowed down and powerless. We have waged war, not peace, in our communities; we have wronged our neighbors far and near. We have been weighed down by fear and division. We have courted disasters, clung to our oppressors.**

Refine us, O Lord of hosts; purify us like gold and silver. Make our love overflow. Come to us, O God, that your mercy would quicken within us.

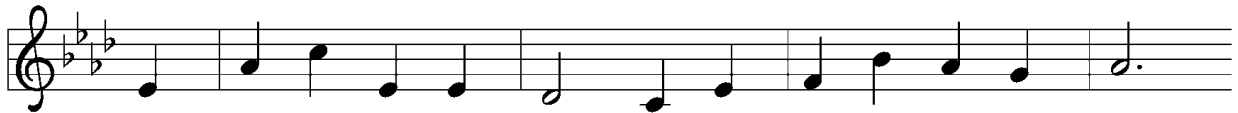
God looks upon us with favor, even now calling us to rejoice always. For a righteous branch springs forth for us: Christ Jesus our Lord. Through the Holy Spirit of fire and rebirth, we receive grace and forgiveness. We are strengthened through the promise fulfilled, to work for justice and peace in all the earth. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn: ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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

God proclaims the promise will be fulfilled: salvation, safety, justice, and righteousness for the beloved.

We wait in hope for the coming Messiah.

We are sent signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars: the kingdom of God is near.

We wait in hope for the coming Messiah.

And so we stand with our heads held high, working for justice, acting with mercy. We light the first candle on this wreath, a flame of peace-filled hope lighting the way toward God's promise fulfilled.

*The first candle is lit as we sing these alternate words to
Light Dawns in a Weary World (ELW 726):*

Hope glows in a weary world

When heads once bowed are raised

To see the dawn of grace.

Hope glows in a weary world

The promise of salvation comes.

Refrain

**The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with
springs;**

The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Prayer of Day

Let us pray. Holy one, you have promised us that the day of peace for which we are waiting is near. **Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may wage your peace in our world and stand with confidence and joy at the return of Christ, in whom we place our trust. Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all
the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the
sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and
faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

The Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will

come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

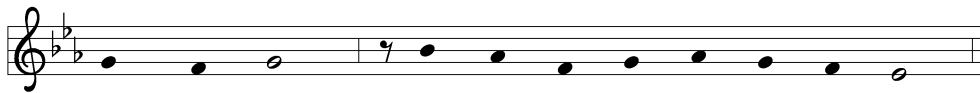
Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 245

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith in the God who wages peace, in our hearts, through our hands and feet, with our voices.

**We believe in God, who is the source of peace in creation,
Ordering the heavens and the earth
To reflect the fullness of shalom,
Calling all people to care for
What has been gifted to us.**

**We believe in God, Word made flesh, Prince of Peace,
Who teaches justice and mercy,
Who brings new life to a broken world,
Who leads through service,
And guides our feet into the way of peace.**

**We believe in God, Wild, wonderful Spirit,
Who works through us,
pushing us to change the world
Through loving-kindness,
Resistance to evil,
And peace-filled living;
Who never leaves us alone;
Who amazes us with unending love;
Who calls us to echo shalom.**

**We believe in God,
Who wages peace with us for all the world.**

Please be seated

Prayers of the People

As we prepare for Christ's return, waging the peace we long for, we humbly bring our hopes and our brokenness before the God of all peace.

A brief silence.

God of justice, our hope is in the peace that we find only in your presence. As we wait for your coming in Jesus, fill your church here and around the world with the vision of your gospel

promise, and ground us in community with people of all faiths as we seek your will together. God of peace,

receive our prayer.

God of creation, all that you have made reveals the truth that you are near. May we see your love, life, and presence in the world around us. God of peace,

receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your promise is for all creation, and all people. Pour your wisdom and compassion on all leaders, that they may seek peace with justice for all, especially the most vulnerable among us. Let the common good of all people and creation be our guide. God of peace,

receive our prayer.

God of transformation, you promise to be with us through life's twists and turns. Bring your peace to all who are in the midst of transitions. Sustain those who are ill or suffering or have asked for our prayers, especially those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift before you now, either silently or aloud. When we are faced with change, remind us of your steadfast love. God of peace,

receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit binds us together, knowing that we are all your children. Inspire and empower our care for one another. As we wage peace in our world, open our hearts to embrace the beauty of the diversity you have made. God of peace,

receive our prayer.

God of memory, we thank you for the love we have shared with all of those who have died (*especially*). In our grief and sorrow,

help us to trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. God of peace,

receive our prayer.

God of peace, receive our prayers and embrace us all in your love, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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: ELW 182

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, **accept these gifts we offer with hearts full of hope. Use them to build systems of justice in the world, where love is the foundation and harmony reigns. May we become instruments of Your peace, finding joy in doing your will. 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 God 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 on 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, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O God of promise. In your love you brought forth creation, forging with a Word all that sustains life, making a world that is called to exist in harmony.

When we strayed from the Way of peace, justice, and mercy, you sent forth prophets to remind us of your promise:

A branch to spring forth for David,

A refiner who will purify,

A restorer of fortunes,

A ruler who wages peace.

When we cried out for salvation, you sent the Son to redeem creation, to call us to lift our heads so we may see the salvation

of God, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and learn how to turn the world right-side-up.

In the night in which Jesus was handed over, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, “Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, and, after giving thanks, he gave it 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 in remembrance of me.”

We remember your life, your death, and your resurrection, and we await your return. In that day, may we be seen pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through your Way of grace and mercy.

We pray for the Spirit’s presence in this bread and wine and in our hearts. Keep us alert at all times, living in peace, rejoicing in hope, so we are able to boldly proclaim your justice and joy quickening through the Son.

Through the already but not yet promised Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Most Holy One, in your 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

All is now ready. Come to this table, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. You who are full of faith, and you who are full of doubt. All are welcome at God's table. Christ himself invites you to meet him here in this place of refuge. **Amen.**

*(Gluten-free wafers are available. Both wine and juice are available. The juice is the innermost circle on the tray.
Reminder: You commune fully even if you consume just one of the elements.)*

Communion Hymn: ACS 949

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Prince of Peace, **you have come to us in this meal, offering the gift of your very self. Now send us out to serve all people, reflecting your good will for this world in all we do. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.**

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW 248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Time to Order Poinsettias:** Order forms are available in the narthex. Put the form and the payment in the offering plate. Thank you!
- **Hanging of the Greens:** Today! Dec. 1st. Plan to stay after worship to help decorate the church for the season. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.
- **Midweek Advent Services:** Dec. 4, 11, 18. Soup and salad dinner will be from 6 to 7; short worship service immediately following dinner.
- **Crafting Together:** Dec. 8, right after service. See sign-up sheet for more details.
- **Christmas Eve service:** 7 p.m.
- **Christmas program:** Jan. 5th during worship

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Pastor Jane Brda, SAM

Ellen Mueller — Music

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