

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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December 7, 2025
8:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Spirit of Praise

Riddle

Welcome and Announcements

We Watch in Hope – Lighting of the Advent Candles

Advent is a time to watch.

We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.

During advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

We watch in hope for the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.

Today we light the second candle. The second candle reminds us that Advent is a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present and constantly at work, leading all of creation toward the plan of redemption. As we light the second candle, we ask for faith to watch for God's presence and open eyes to see all that God is doing.

Please rise in body or spirit.

Gathering Song

We Watch in Hope Week 2 Verse

JOEL RANEY

Congregation:
Refrain



(1st Sunday) We wait in
(2nd Sunday) We watch in
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
(4th Sunday) We praise with
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



We wait with
We watch with
We pre - pare with
We praise with
We pro - claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we wait in
we watch in
we pre - pare in
we praise with
we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

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Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

We pray.

**God in heaven, as we learn to wait in faith, help us now to watch in expectation.
Open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us
and through us.**

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Translation: NRSVue

A reading from Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Translation: NRSVue

The Good News from Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Good News!

Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

We rise in body or spirit.

Word in Song

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Verses 1, 2, 5

ELW 249



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



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of 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.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Affirmation for Advent

We affirm our faith.

We believe in God,
source of both darkness and light.

We see God in Jesus Christ,
who suffered but could not be overcome.

Through him, the world is renewed and those in need are restored.

We follow God,
guided by the Spirit into truth and life.

We await God's promises:
a world made whole where peace prevails.
Amen

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

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.

After each petition:

Hear us O God;
your mercy is great.

Pastor's closing prayer:

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

Amen

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

During the Offering Song, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated. If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

Offering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Offering Prayer

We pray.

God of goodness, as we walk in the light of your love, you give us the beauty of nature, food to nourish us, and communities to love and support us. Out of our abundance, we bring our gifts to you. May they increase peace in our community and in the world.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

People of God, Christ has invited us here!

We gather to praise God, who brings justice to all.

We gather to give thanks to God for hope and peace.

Blessed be the Lord, who has done marvelous things.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we watch in hope, and prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth,
we tell the world of that Advent mystery.

Jesus was born that we might have hope.

Jesus died and was raised that we might have life.

Jesus will come again to welcome us home.

Pour out the Spirit of Advent upon the gifts of bread and cup.

As we receive the bread, open our shuttered hearts that we might become more
compassionate. As we receive the cup, may we not only proclaim your love,
but speak of peace, of reconciliation, of healing to all the broken places and people.

Lord's Prayer

We pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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 the Table

All are welcome at this table.

You are welcome at this table.

God is with us at this table.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Song

Come to Be Our Hope, Lord Jesus

ACS 904



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics in Spanish, English, and a mix of both. The lyrics are arranged in two columns per line of music, with some lines having a third column for a final phrase. The score consists of seven lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are in Spanish, English, and a mix of both. The Spanish lyrics are in italics, and the English lyrics are in a standard font. The lyrics are arranged in two columns per line of music, with some lines having a third column for a final phrase. The score is a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics in Spanish, English, and a mix of both. The lyrics are arranged in two columns per line of music, with some lines having a third column for a final phrase. The Spanish lyrics are in italics, and the English lyrics are in a standard font.

Español: 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y
2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -

English: 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to
2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the

li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,
nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra
set your peo - ple free. From op -
road of ser - vant - hood; give new

na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -
que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -
pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -
life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to

der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -
tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu
ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who
good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your

ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros
rei - no de a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran
suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the
joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man

pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.
mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.
rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.
sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

Communion Song

All Earth is Hopeful

ELW 266



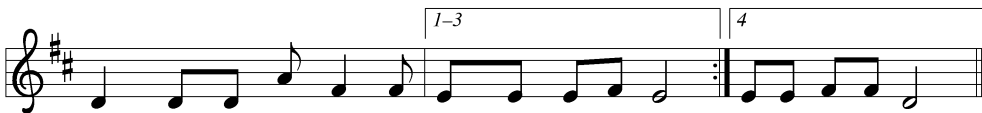
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co - a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after communion

We pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
 and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

May the God of love fill you with joy and peace.
May the peace of Christ be with you now and forever.
And may the Holy Spirit fill your days with hope.
Amen

Sending Song

Prepare the Royal Highway
Verses 1, 2, 3

ELW 264



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Dismissal

As we go forth in this new church year, preparing to celebrate God's birth into this world, let us go out and seek the good in others.

Thanks be to God.

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Advent Candle Lighters

Melanie Werley, Jimmy Lee Werley

Assisting Minister

Linda Devine

Reader

Mackenzie L.

Communion Assistants

Sue Mathieu, Linda Devine

Greeters

Lorie Stout Sherman, Pattie Bisbing

Usher

Gerry Masteller

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Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

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Brenda Brookover, Deb Stevens