

# The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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December 14, 2025  
10:45 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.

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**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 Music

Comfort Ye  
Spirit Ringers  
Laura Rothe, violin

Handel/McChesney

## Welcome and Announcements

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## We Prepare in Hope – Lighting of the Advent Candles

Advent is a time to prepare.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

Today we light the third candle. The third candle reminds us that Advent is a time to prepare. During Advent, we prepare ourselves in heart, soul and strength to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Let each of us ask God to prepare us to celebrate the glory of Christmas.

# Gathering Song

## We Prepare in Hope Week 3 Verse

JOEL RANEY

Congregation:  
Refrain



(1st Sunday)	We	wait	in	} hope_____ for the morn - ing Light,
(2nd Sunday)	We	watch	in	
(3rd Sunday)	We	pre - pare	in	
(4th Sunday)	We	praise	with	
(Christmas Eve)	We	pro-claim	with	



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



We	wait	with	} joy_____ for the Sav - ior's birth;
We	watch	with	
We	pre - pare	with	
We	praise	with	
We	pro-claim	with	



we	wait	in	} hope for peace on earth.
we	watch	in	
we	pre - pare	in	
we	praise	with	
we	pro - claim	with	

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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 continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do.

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 35:1-10

Translation: CEV

A reading from Isaiah.

Thirsty deserts will be glad;  
barren lands will celebrate and blossom with flowers.  
Deserts will bloom everywhere and sing joyful songs.  
They will be as majestic as Mount Lebanon,  
as glorious as Mount Carmel or Sharon Valley.  
Everyone will see the wonderful splendor of the Lord our God.

Here is a message for all who are weak, trembling, and worried:  
"Cheer up! Don't be afraid.  
Your God is coming to punish your enemies.  
God will take revenge on them and rescue you."

The blind will see, and the ears of the deaf will be healed.  
Those who were lame will leap around like deer;  
tongues once silent will shout for joy.  
Water will rush through the desert.

Scorching sand will turn into a lake,  
and thirsty ground will flow with fountains.  
Grass will grow in deserts,  
where packs of wild dogs once made their home.

A good road will be there, and it will be named "God's Sacred Highway."  
It will be for God's people;  
no one unfit to worship God will walk on that road.  
And no fools can travel on that highway.  
No lions or other wild animals will come near that road;  
only those the Lord has saved will travel there.

The people the Lord has rescued will come back singing as they enter Zion.  
Happiness will be a crown everyone will always wear.  
They will celebrate and shout because all sorrows and worries  
will be gone far away.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** James 5:7-10

Translation: NIV

A reading from James.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*Please rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

## Gospel Acclamation

## Alleluia

## ELW Setting 8

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Translation: NIV

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Tami Reichley

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding**

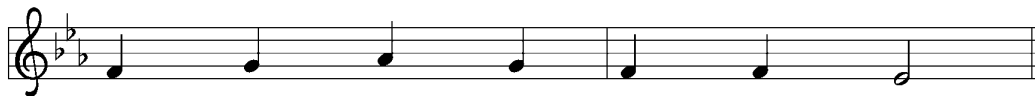
**ELW 246**



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!



## 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:*

Lord, hear our prayer,  
**and fill the hungry with good things.**

*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 Musical Offering, 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.*

**Musical Offering**

Come, Emmanuel, Come  
Spirit Voices

Besig

## **Offering Prayer**

We pray.  
Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.  
**Amen**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## Great Thanksgiving

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:

## Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. 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

### Word in Meal

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

### 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

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

*The assembly is seated.*

## Distribution of Communion

### Agnus Dei

### Lamb of God

### ELW Setting 8

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



*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.



*y\_el 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.



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom-ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

*Please 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 God who comes among us,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen**

**Sending Hymn** *Please see next page.*

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sending Music**

Noel (Grand Jeu et Duo)

D'Aquin





1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - n - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.



**venmo**

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

- 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](http://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 Wreath Lighters**

Nancy Anderson, Heather Coe

### **Assisting Minister**

Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Reader**

Bob Mueller

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Terri Hinderliter, Glenn Hinderliter

### **Greeter**

Kitti Berkheimer

### **Usher**

Mike Berkheimer

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Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Max H., Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,  
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

### **Altar Care**

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Mike Berkheimer, Kitti Berkheimer, Julie Timmcke, Carol Osenbach, Barb Roba,  
Brenda Brookover, Deb Stevens