

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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December 14, 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 Music

God with Us
Lisa Walton, solo
Glenn Hinderliter, percussion

Ingram and Jordan

Welcome and Announcements

We 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.

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!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Translation: NIV

The Good News from Matthew, the 11th chapter.
Open our hearts, 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.

This is the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Tami Reichley

We rise in body or spirit.

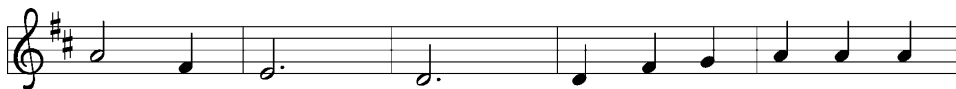
Word in Song

I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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 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

5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
6. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer; O Sun of jus - tice,

heav' - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
Now draw near. Dis - perse the gloom-y clouds of night,

and close the path to mi - ser - y. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
and death's dark sha-dows put to flight

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff includes a 'Refrain' section. The fourth staff concludes the song with a double bar line.

Offering Prayer

We pray.

Generous God who calls us to rejoice, you fill the hungry with good things and you help your people in need. Receive the gifts we offer, and make them, and us, joyful and patient signs of your coming justice and glory.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

We gather with hope to witness the Lord's glory.

God has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Let us be patient with one another, trusting that God is near.

God has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Let us share our hope and the good news we have received.

God has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we prepare in hope 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

He Came Down

ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Communion Song

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905



- 1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
- 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



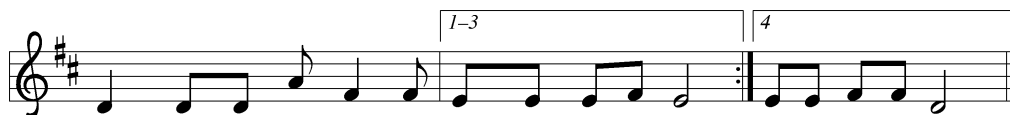
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



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.

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 God, who makes the desert blossom, fill you with joy.

May Jesus, who brings good news, grant you patience.

May the Holy Spirit, who fulfills God's promises, give you hope.

Amen

Sending Song *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

Be patient and let your hearts be strong,
for the coming of the Lord is near.

Thanks be to God.



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 - 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.

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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

Rothe Family

Assisting Minister

Becky Keane

Reader

Judith Hausman

Communion Assistants

Carol Walrod, Don Walrod

Greeter

John Hollland

Ushers

Binkley Family

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Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
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Brenda Brookover, Deb Stevens

