

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**



**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

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## INTRODUCTION

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

## PRELUDE

### WELCOME

*Please stand*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that lead us to participate in evil systems. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## 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.**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are




seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*




Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,




you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit*

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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

- <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- <sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**
- <sup>5</sup>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.
- <sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**
- <sup>7</sup>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.
- <sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.
- <sup>10</sup>**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

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

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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 stand*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The musical score consists of three staves in G major. The first staff contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' with a fermata over the final 'ia'. The second staff continues with 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' and ends with a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a key signature change to F major (indicated by a natural sign over the B line) and contains the text 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.'

## **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel according Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus said <sup>25</sup> “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. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

<sup>34</sup> “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, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> 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.”

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

## **HOMILY**

*Please stand*



## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*O Come Messiah King*

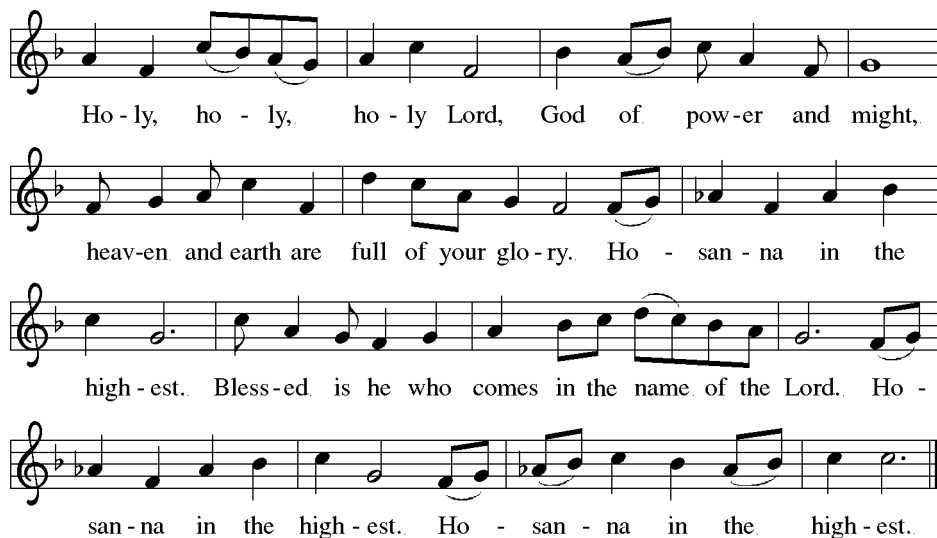
### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

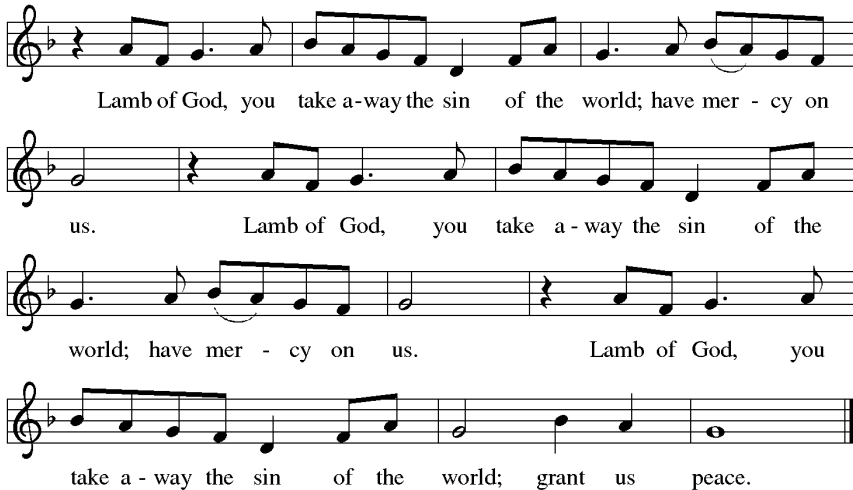
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please sit*

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will come after to receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### FAMILY TIME

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.**

Please stand

## SENDING HYMN

### Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:  
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

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"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

"The King Shall Come"

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"



### **Semiannual Congregational Meeting**

The Semiannual Congregational Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 7:00pm. We will be approving our budget for 2025 – our spending plan for doing mission in the next year. You can log in by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89122307863> or by calling 929-205-6099 from a phone and using Meeting ID: 891 2230 7863.

### **Pot Luck following the Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 8, 2024 – Fellowship Hall**

Please sign up in the narthex for the Pot Luck next Sunday, 12/8/2024, following the service.



The Angel Tree is in the narthex with gift requests for Mildred Helms School. To give a gift take a tag with gift information from the tree and please return your tag with your unwrapped gift. If you have questions please contact Marilou Nemeth at 727-546-9580 (Home), 727-242-1304 Cell). **The final date for the collection of these items is Sunday December 15, 2024.**

**Our Stewardship  
For the month ending October 2024**

	Church	Little Lambs	
Needed monthly	\$ 28,324.92	\$ 54,174.25	
Giving/Income for the month	14,344.84	70,159.86	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 22,918.11	\$ 56,330.28	
Giving/Income YTD	140,313.57	686,535.07	
Expenses YTD	253,391.97	632,074.46	
Total Profit/Loss YTD	\$(113,006.40)	\$54,460.61	\$(58,545.79)
Estimated Cost for Roof and Renovations		\$ 150,000.00	
Total Paid Out for Roof and Renovations so far		\$ 123,494.00	
Contributions towards Roof and Renovations		\$ 26,614.70	



**Sunday Worship Services – 9:45am  
FaithWorks Sundays - 11:00am**

Monday, December 2	10:00 am	Naomi Circle in the church library Abigail Circle via Zoom
Thursday, December 5	7:00pm	Semiannual Congregational Zoom meeting
Sunday, December 8	9:45am	Christmas Cantata followed by a pot luck.
Sunday, December 15	9:45am	Advent 3 Worship Service
Sunday, December 22	9:45am	Advent 4 Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service