

“A Word from the Lord”

Second Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 8, 2024
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
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WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY. Holy Communion is a very special time in our worship service. When we approach the altar, we publicly declare our unity in faith. God's Word tells us that Jesus' Body and Blood are REALLY PRESENT in the bread and wine. The bread and wine do not merely "stand for" Jesus' Body and Blood, for Jesus said, "This is my body and this is my blood," and we accept this mystery (Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-33). In the LORD's Supper, God gives, as a gift to us, His love and forgiveness and strengthens our faith.

Jesus calls us to prepare for the LORD's Supper by believing what the Bible says with regard to sin, by repenting of our sins, and believing Christ's real presence in the bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). We ask both members and guests to examine the questions below before taking Communion:

1. Do I believe that God's Word is entirely "inspired" and without error?
2. Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope except for God's mercy in Christ?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His body and blood?
5. Do I believe that my sins are forgiven and that my faith is strengthened in Holy Communion?
6. Is it my intent, by the power of the Holy Spirit working in this Sacrament, to live a Godly life?

If you have any doubts or do not understand our beliefs about Communion, please refrain from participating at this time. Call our pastor. He would be happy to help you understand the meaning and blessings of this special "Means of Grace."

Our church is a member of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, an international church,
bold to share the love of Christ with all nationalities.
Our Common bond is loyalty to the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the only guide in
matters of faith and life.

SERVICE SIGN-UPS: The sign-up sheets are on the back table. All members are encouraged to sign-up to help in some way for any service.

TODAY'S **ELDERS:** Neil Schamber & Brent O'Bryan
 GREETER: Kathy Killion
 READER: Ed Wegner
 ACOLYTE: Leland Harding IV

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP: We are so glad you are here to worship with us. Please fill out the record of fellowship in the Red Book in each pew. We ask that each person check all the appropriate boxes and fill out their information on one line of the sheet and pass it on to the next person in the pew. For families, place each member on a new line. It is our hope that we will be able to better care for you with this information.

GREETING - *The peace of the Lord may be shared.*

OPENING HYMN

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law

In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

INVOCATION

based on John 3:16; 8:36; Romans 5:1

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

People: **let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *John 1:5, 9; 14:27; Luke 2:14; Psalm 4:6-8*

Pastor: We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await, the angelic proclamation of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased," we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

People: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!'

People: **You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

Pastor: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

People: **for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, Jesus forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, how and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

¹ "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion a the

Sit

MALACHI 3:1-7b

⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.'

PHILIPPIANS 1:2-11

day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and

all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of

righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Lector This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to **St. Luke** beginning at the **third** chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers!

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ**

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,* I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

*The ancient text: one holy catholic and apostolic Church

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON HYMN ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

LSB 344

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;

Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

Stand

Δ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

SERMON

"A Word from the Lord"

LUKE 3:1-14a

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gathering of us together around Word and Sacrament, as You call, gather, and enlighten us through Your Spirit. Keep Your church united in truth, as Christ has completed His work for the sake of humanity as we await His return. As You continue to work in us and through us Your grace and mercy, empower us by Your Spirit to live holy lives according to Your will and to live as Your witnesses among our neighbors, coworkers, and community. As we pray to You now, we also pray with Paul upon ourselves and all believers who call upon Your name:

People: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Pastor: Be with all who bear Your Word, including those who serve as missionaries both near and far. Grant open ears and eager hearts to receive the good news of a Savior given, and forgiveness assured. For all who face trials, persecution, and even death for confessing Your name, grant a steadfastness of faith even in the most dire times.

People: "It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Pastor: For all who are sick, lonely, and in need of comfort, we lift them up to You, [*including . . .*]. According to Your will, grant healing. According to Your promises, remain with them with the comfort and peace of Your presence in times of affliction. Be with doctors, nurses, and medical staff as they use the gifts and abilities given to them. Help us and others to serve as Your instruments that we may show compassion in times of need, speak words of hope in times of hopelessness, and serve according to needs had in times of helplessness. For all people, as we prepare to receive and rejoice in the Savior given and born for us, keep us prepared for the day of His coming again.

People: "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Additional petitions may follow.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Sit

COMMUNION HYMN

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels:
Refrain

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:
Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

COMMUNION HYMN

1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, and ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Now He shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory

LSB 384

Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray,
We gave thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutatory gift,
and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith
toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES *John 1:5, 9*

Pastor: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
People: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

THE ADVENT OF OUR KING

4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one,
Through all eternity

Sit
LSB 331

Stand

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Public Domain: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, On Jordan's Bank, O Come, All Ye Faithful, The Father's Love Begotten, The Advent Of Our King

SCHEDULE THE WEEK OF

DECEMBER 8-DECEMBER 15, 2024

Today

- 9:00 AM Worship w/communion
- 10:00 AM Fellowship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Bible Class

Tuesday

- 9:30 AM Work Day
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesday

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- **5:00 PM Bulletin Deadline**
- 6:00 PM Choir
- 6:00 PM Midweek/Confirmation
- 7:00 PM **Advent worship**

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Saturday

- 10:00 AM Sunday School Program
Practice

Next Sunday

- 9:00 AM Worship
 - 5:00 PM Sunday School Program with
Meal by the TFC
 - Greeters:
 - Ushers:
 - Reader: Alan Rasmussen
 - Acolyte: Nora Pownell
- Fellowship: **Karen Hasek, Julie Miller, Lorrie Endres**

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAROLING- CAROLING: Christmas Caroling is planned for Tuesday, Dec 17. Meet at the church at 10 AM and we will go out to home bound and group homes to spread some Christmas cheer. We have books and all voices are welcome and needed! We will break for lunch and finish about 2PM. Join us for any part of the day that works for you. It is the best thing we can do to celebrate the season!

PHOTO WALL: The Christmas season is a wonderful time to submit a photo for the wall at church. Digital pictures may be sent directly to the church and if you submit a photo, the size we are using is 3" wide by 5"high. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE: Practice for the Sunday School program will be this Saturday, December 14th, 10 am at church. Pizza to follow at approximately 11:30 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM: Mt Olive Sunday School children will be sharing the Christmas story in their program on Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 PM. Children should be at church by 4:15 pm. The Teens for Christ will be serving a wonderful meal following the program.

TEENS FOR CHRIST: Teens are selling several items before and after services. All items make excellent gifts. Thank you for your continued support!!

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES will continue each Wednesday at 7:00 PM beginning this week Wednesday. Join us for "Wrinkled Wrappings," part 2.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Make plans to worship with us on Christmas Eve. Mt. Olive will be holding a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 4:30 PM. Christmas Day worship will be held at 9:00 AM.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available on the back table. Take a copy for yourself and a friend to use this advent season during your personal devotions as we prepare for the Christmas Celebration.

ADVENT CALENDAR: Advent is a season of making ready and we are offering a unique online Advent calendar on the Mt Olive website as another way to "make ready for Him because He made ready for us so many years ago." This is something you can do alone or with family letting it spark conversation. Stop by the website daily beginning December 1st.

WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS: There will be no Women's Bible class on Dec. 17, 24 or 31.

MAINSTREET LIVING: Sundays on KDLT-NBC at 10:30 AM CST and PAX at 11 AM CDT or on YouTube and at mainstreetliving.com. Click on the "Watch Main Street Living" tab. The Message for **December 15, 10:30** Rev. James Travis, pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Sioux City, IA, presents a message titled "Flag on the Play." The sermon is based on Philippians 4:2-7

December 15: "Christmas Is" The shepherd in the play learns the importance of Christmas.

Attendance: (12/1, 12/4)

Sunday Worship: 140

Wednesday:

Offerings: (12/1)

General (Checking)

3844.00

Sanctuary Lighting (Savings)

120.00

Total

3964.00

(12/4)

General (Checking)

651.86

To meet our 2024 budget goals, we need to average **\$5048** in our weekly offering collection

SERMON NOTES

DATE

MAIN
VERSE

Notes

I Learned....



Questions?

Today's Prayer

PRAY MORE
worry less