

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT+ 27 NOVEMBER 2022+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

- ❖ The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Emma Lou Dizmeyer is a resident of Santa Barbara, still active in her 90s at last report. In her music, she often features dissonant harmonies, sometimes seeming to avoid anything resembling a major or minor triad. Her setting of “St. Thomas” is gentle, featuring various solo voices, and her characteristic harmonic language.

BWV 661 is from the great 18 chorales, Bach's largest chorale settings. The melody is played in the pedal against rich counterpoint in the manuals. Our mid-week Advent services will feature this great hymn this year, and the organ selections will be based on it.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite 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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 25:4–5, 21–22; antiphon: vv. 1–3a

To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.
Let not my enemies exult | over me.*
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame.
 Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*
 teach me | your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for you I wait all the | day long.
 May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,*
 for I | wait for you.

Redeem Israel, | O God,*
out of all his | troubles.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

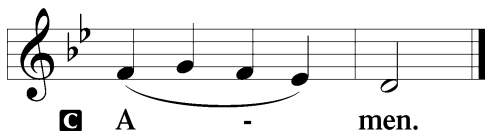


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Mountain of the LORD

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The King of Glory

¹The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein,

²**for he has founded it up- | on the seas***
and established it upon the | rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*

And who shall stand in his | holy place?

⁴**He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,***
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

⁵He will receive blessing | from the LORD*
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

⁶**Such is the generation of those who | seek him,***
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.

⁸**Who is this King of | glory?***
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in | battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this King of | glory?***
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of | glory!

Epistle*Romans 13:11-14*

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

LSB 190




Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The Triumphal Entry

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**☐ 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.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
 The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
 For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
 Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
 And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joyce!

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821-80, alt.
 Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For unashamed hope in the Lord's return, that sustained by His Holy Spirit, we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the Holy Church, that God would preserve her against all enemies and lead His people to walk in His ways and follow His paths, so that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For Christian homes, that God would defend husbands, wives and children from the temptation to walk in the works of darkness, clothing them with the armor of light, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For our nation, its leaders and our armed forces, that God would take them under His care and let His blessing rest upon them, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the sick, the suffering and those in need, especially *Alice, Bev, Carmen, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gayle and her family, Helen, Hoshea, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Royce, Sabrina, Sophia, and Timothy* that our Father in heaven would ease their pain, increase their faith, and grant them healing and peace in accordance with His own wisdom and will, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who commune, that the Lord, who humbly rode into Jerusalem for our salvation, would give to us hearts that confess our sin and rejoice in His presence in the Holy Communion for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** Holy God, You declared that the days were coming when You would accomplish our salvation, and in Your time You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up for David. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



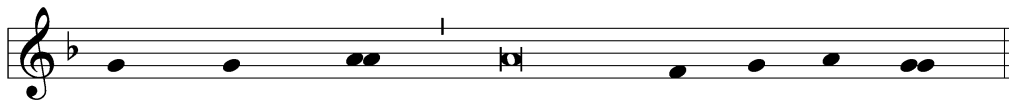
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis - ci - ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † bod - y, which is giv - en for you.



This do in re - mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My † blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who
ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the
forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;

On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.

- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And “Holy, holy, holy” sing
To Christ, God’s Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, 1969

Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742

Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

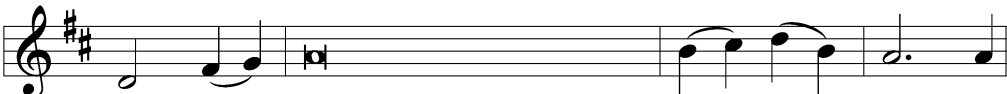
Tune: Public domain

Stand



Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-




cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



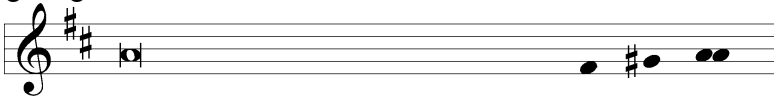
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



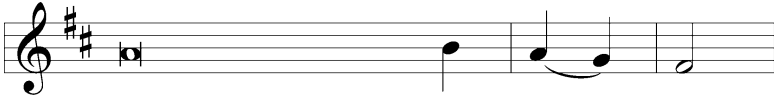
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary 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.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



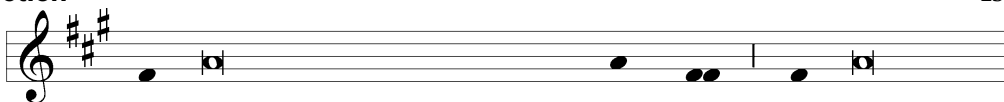
A Bless we the Lord.



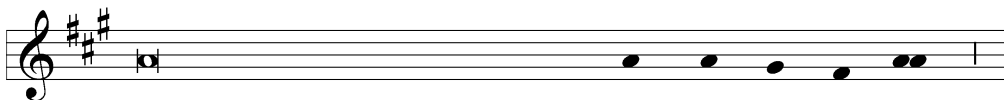
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

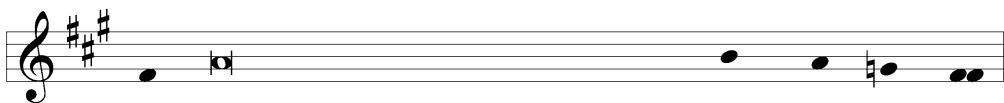
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

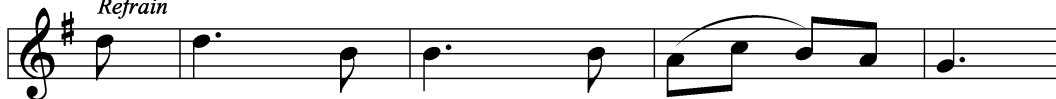


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 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

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Savior of the Nations, Come BWV 661

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 35**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** November 27th Marie
December 4th

Cleanup for November: Gayle and Royce
Cleanup for December

+ **Thank you to all who donated can food to Lutheran Social Services! We are still collecting toys for ages 1-17 for Christmas. See Jill or Moira if you have any questions!**

+ **Congregational Voter's Meeting today after service! It is strongly encouraged for all who can attend! In the November's Voter's Meeting, we vote together on the election of Church Officers and approve the budget.**

+ **Join us for food and fellowship at the Advent Suppers on Wednesday Evenings at 6pm before Vespers at 7pm. If you would like to contribute, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

November Birthdays

Clinton Galloway 30th

Gayle Tarr 30th

Upcoming Advent Services

Advent I Wednesday, November 30th @ 7pm

Advent II Wednesday, December 7th @ 7pm

Advent III Wednesday, December 14th @ 7pm

Advent IV Wednesday, December 21st @ 7pm

Advent Suppers will begin at 6pm each Wednesday before service.



An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"This Gospel encourages and demands faith...and none may receive or accept save he who believes Him to be the Man, and has the mind, as this Gospel portrays in Christ. Nothing but the mercy, tenderness and kindness of Christ are here shown, and he who so receives and believes on Him is saved....He come[s]...sitting upon an ass...He indicates by this that He comes not to frighten man, nor to drive or crush him, but to help and to carry his burden for him." *From the Church Postil for Ad te levavi, 1521*

A Snippet From 1517

Advent is the season that begins the liturgical year that ties the rhythm of earthly life with the rhythm of heavenly life. The word "advent: is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the Roman Empire, the word *adventus* referred to the arrival of a person of dignity or great power – a king, emperor, or even one of the gods. For Christians, Advent is the time when the Church patiently prepares for the coming of the Great King, Jesus the Christ. Quite appropriately, then, Advent follows Christ the King Sunday.

Advent is the first part of a larger liturgical season that includes Christmas and Epiphany and continues until the beginning of Lent. Even though Advent occurs in December and is often considered as a prelude to Christmas, it is not simply about waiting for the birth of Christ. The preparatory and penitential aspects of Advent focus on Christ's second coming as Judge of the world on the last day, the "Day of the Lord." Despite the penitential tone, Advent is a time for holy joy and preparation that emphasizes four advents or comings: (1) The prophetic coming that points to Christ's birth; (2) The incarnate coming of Christ in Bethlehem; (3) The sacramental coming in the waters of Holy Baptism and, supremely, in Holy Communion; and (4) Christ's coming on the "Day of the Lord," to which we say, "Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen."

The appointed epistle text for the First Sunday in Advent is about *preparation* for the Incarnation of our God and King and the implications of the dawn of the new creation.

...The "present age" plods along like business as usual. And the present age's business perpetuates darkness and unregenerate humanity habituates and celebrates this darkness. However, the new world has dawned – it has shown in the darkness, dispelling darkness wherever its rays venture. This *new creation* expands and marches on, undaunted, to its fulfillment, a fulfillment that will come shortly but without precise specification in terms of when exactly. The upshot, according to the Apostle, means that those disciples of King Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection inaugurated the new age, the age of light and life, are commanded to live already according to the reality and rules of the new world. In other words, because they, too, have come to participate in *resurrection life* through holy baptism, they, too, ought to be governed by the power of the resurrection – the Holy Spirit of Love and Truth. *This day has begun, has broken into*

a world otherwise wallowing in darkness, the citizens of which are fast asleep to the truth that God's kingdom *has* come and is passing them by.

Paul, therefore, posits the ethical expectations and standards of Christ's kingdom, which is the kingdom of heaven on Earth. Put simply, Paul gives instructions for what resurrection life looks like *now* in the Church, the domain in which Christ Jesus rules and reigns by grace, mercy, truth, peace, and love. Such behavior is *daytime behavior* (living in the light) that contrasts *nighttime behavior* (living in darkness). Under the cover of darkness, all kinds of unseemly things happen – drunkenness, orgies, shameless sexual immorality, the kind of stuff not done in broad daylight. The light/dark contrast proves quite useful. The preacher should exploit the metaphor. It is not that ungodly behavior always takes place in the dark, but that these are the works of darkness, of those who have not been *enlightened* – a term used in [Hebrews 6:4](#) associated with holy baptism. Enlightened, to be of the Light (that is, of Christ and in Christ, who is “the light of the world” (8:12)), necessarily entails resurrection life, the resurrection of a once-dead, now re-created human spirit ([Ephesians 2:1-6](#)).

The things of darkness, of course, move into attitudes and dispositions: bad temper and jealousy, anger, and bitterness. These things, likewise, are not of the *enlightened* soul, not of the Spirit of God. They, too, are on par with drunkenness and sexual immorality – they are not of the children of light; they are not the works of God. Significantly, Paul doesn't just tell the baptized Romans what to “put off” but also *how* to avoid it. “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ” ([Romans 13:14](#)). As you preach this great climax, your auditors will want to know, How is this done? N. T. Wright, provides a succinct explanation:

Putting on: comes from the night/day contrast once more. Here we are, getting up while the rest of the world still thinks it's night-time; we must put our clothes on. The Christian's “clothing” – which two verses earlier he has referred to as “armour”, the “armour of light,” the clothing we need when the light has begun to shine – consists of Jesus himself, Jesus the Lord, Jesus the king.^[1] This is the reality to come as a result of the great Christic event – Advent, the Incarnation of our God and Savior.

...A final word on verses 11 and 12: “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand.” When is the final day of salvation? Speculation is futile – and always has been so. The point of these verses stresses that the day of grace and enlightenment has come and the final day could come at any time. Onus can be put on the fact that the resurrection of Christ has prepared the way for the final day of salvation. A further witness to it and to their belonging to it and having a share in it was, of course, their baptism. Consequently, the sun was rising high and it was time to live like those wide awake in the light and life of the resurrection. How many hours are left in the day before the whole world is flooded with light really doesn't matter other than to say that for those still in the dark, there's an urgency for them to awake and leave the darkness behind. *John Bombaro, 2022*