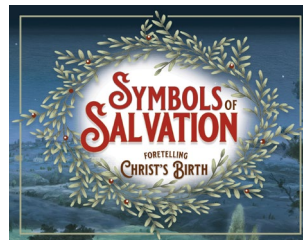


# WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

*"Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth"*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021 | 7 PM



### \* *As We Gather* \*

The weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with special memories as previous holiday seasons come to mind. The Church Year time of Advent helps us to prepare for the coming of our Lord once again. As we make those preparations, not only do we look back to the first Christmas as recorded by the Gospel writers, but we also look even further back in Scripture to when the Son of God came among His people in other times and places before His wondrous birth at Bethlehem. In the Old Testament, we find the details of earlier divine visits that are part of our sacred memory, and we recall them in these holy days.

*Please follow the service in the worship folder. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering box at the Sanctuary door as you exit.*

### \* *Preparation* \*

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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## INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Psalms 124:8*

Pastor Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**People Who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness and confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, asking for His merciful forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Pastor God Almighty,

**People Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son, our Emmanuel, to die for us, and for His sake, forgives us all our sins. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.  
Almighty Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to look for the signs of His coming and to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, lead us evermore to serve Him in our lives until that day when He comes again to claim us as His own for eternity. This we ask in His most blessed name.

**People Amen.**

## ✧ *Word* ✧

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 3:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 24*

Pastor The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**People For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

Pastor Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

**People He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

Pastor He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**People Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

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

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

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

**People Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## SECOND READING

*Isaiah 25:6-9*

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

<sup>7</sup>And He will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.  
This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE***Philippians 4:5b-6; Psalm 50:2-6, 14*

Pastor The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**People Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Pastor Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

**People He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people: "Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"**

Pastor The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!

**People Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL***John 15:1-8*

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

<sup>2</sup>Every branch of Mine that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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## SERMON

*"Old Testament Christmas"*

Rev. Shawn Deterding

## CATECHISM ~ *The First Article*

**People** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**Pastor** What does this mean?

**People** I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**ALL 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.**

## HYMN VERSE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB 357 (v. 1)

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

## ADVENT ANTIPHON

Pastor O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

**People Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

**HYMN VERSE***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB 357 (v. 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.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**ADVENT ANTIPHON**

Pastor O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

People **Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

**HYMN VERSE***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB 357 (v. 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.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**PRAYER**

Pastor Let us pray.

Almighty God, Judge and King, the whole creation waits for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, and fill our lives with Your presence. Use all our time for Your gracious purpose; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

People **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN***Hark the Glad Sound*

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come





prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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*\* Go in peace \**

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### **ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES**

*Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth*  
Wednesdays, December 8 & 15 \* 7 PM  
Soup Supper each Wednesday at 6 PM



### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Thursday, December 24 \* 7 PM  
*Accompanied by piano and a 10-piece orchestra*



### **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

*The Nativity of Our Lord*  
Friday, December 25 \* 10 AM

*Transportation assistance for our evening Advent & Christmas Eve services is available for those who don't like to travel at night. Contact your Elder or the church office to make arrangements.*

*Christ  
IS Coming!*