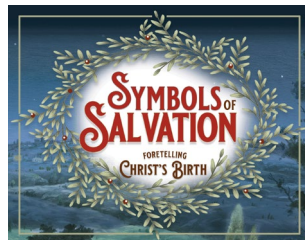


WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

"Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 | 7 PM



* *As We Gather* *

A tradition carried out in some places during the weeks before Christmas is the "Secret Santa," in which a person leaves little gifts or notes of greeting and encouragement for someone else in a mysterious way. The "Secret Santa" does not reveal his or her identity until Christmas has come. The person who received the gifts may find that the giver was someone totally unexpected, even unlikely. In the season of Advent, we find ourselves awaiting God's unlikely Messiah. He comes to earth not in power or splendor but in humility and simplicity. God's plan of salvation is unexpected and unlikely and amazing. With eager hearts, we anticipate the arrival of our humble Lord and rejoice in the wonder of His coming.

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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness, Mourn-ing
dark mis-deed; All that well de-served His an-ger He no
far and near, Call-ing sin-ners to re-pen-tance, Since the
plac-es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, As be-



'neath their sor-rows' load. Speak ye to Je-ru-sa-lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf-fered man-y a day,
King-dom now is here. O that warn-ing cry o-bey!
fits His ho-ly reign. For the glo-ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a-way; God will change her
Now pre-pare for God a way; Let the val-leys
Now o'er earth is shed a-broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov-er And her war-fare now is o-ver."
pin-ing sad-ness In-to ev-er-spring-ing glad-ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to-ken That His Word is nev-er bro-ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

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.

SALUTATION & COLLECT

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You came to earth in lowliness of heart to seek and save the lost. In this season of repentance and prayer, make us ready to prepare Your way with sincere devotion that reflects Your humble service. By Your Holy Spirit, grant us a sense of peace and renewed dedication to live as faithful and courageous people, so that we welcome You with joyful hearts and hope-filled lives. This we ask in Your most holy name.

People Amen.

** Word **

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Judges 6:11-24; (7:2-9)

¹¹Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." ¹³And Gideon said to Him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" ¹⁵And he said to Him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." ¹⁶And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷And he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your eyes, then show me a sign that it is You who speaks with me." ¹⁸Please do not depart from here until I come to You and bring out my present and set it before You." And He said, "I will stay till you return."

¹⁹So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to Him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat

and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in His hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²²Then Gideon perceived that He was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." ²³But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites. ...

^{7:2}The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' ³Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. ⁴And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go." ⁵So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." ⁶And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. ⁷And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." ⁸So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand."

Lector This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 85

Pastor LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

People You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.

Pastor You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

People Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!

Pastor Will You be angry with us forever?

People Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Pastor Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?
People Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
People Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
People Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Pastor Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
People Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

**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.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:68-75

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
People Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶⁸Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for He has visited and redeemed His people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of His servant David,
⁷⁰as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember His holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve Him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to You, O Christ.



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
 That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith,
 Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
 As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face,
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

"You Shall Defeat Them as One Man"

Rev. Shawn Deterding

CATECHISM ~ *The Third Article*

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Pastor What does this mean?

People I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(After each petition, the congregation will respond, "Lord, hear our prayer.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.**

ADVENT ANTIPHON

Pastor O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

People Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

HYMN VERSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

ADVENT ANTIPHON

Pastor O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:
People **Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.**

HYMN VERSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

ADVENT ANTIPHON

Pastor O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:
People **Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

HYMN VERSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 (v. 1)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

PRAYER

Pastor O Lord, grant us Your grace in this present age to live with confidence and courage as we look for the fullness of Your coming among us in all of Your glory and power at the end of time. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us through our days until at last we join with saints and angels in endless praise around Your heavenly throne. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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

People **Amen.**



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
 4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

✱ *Go in peace* ✱





WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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TITHES & OFFERINGS

Giving is an act of grace through which we gratefully respond to God's kindness to us in Jesus Christ. Tithes and offerings can be placed in the offering box at the Sanctuary doors as you exit. Contributions can also be given through your banking institution's online bill pay service, our website, or the *Givelify* mobile app.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24 ✨ 7 PM

Accompanied by 10-piece orchestra



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

The Nativity of Our Lord

Friday, December 25 ✨ 10 AM

