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**The audio for worship will be muted until  
worship begins**

# **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

***Where do you see John the Baptist's prophetic vision at work in the world today?***

December 7, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting Nine

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# **Confession**

*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,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of  
war.**

**We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our  
neighbours.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have  
promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Saviour.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**  
***Blessed Is the One* – No. 929**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.

# Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**



# Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

# **Advent Song**

## ***He Came Down – No. 253***

**Vs. 1** He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**Vs. 2** He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**Vs. 3** He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**Vs. 4** He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

## Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the  
people, and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the  
people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

Refrain: ***May the righteous flourish; let there be  
an abundance of peace.***

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon | the  
mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the  
moon shall | be no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of  
Israel;**

**you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious | name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

A- | men. Amen.

Refrain: ***May the righteous flourish; let there be  
an abundance of peace.***

# **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



## Hymn of the Day

### ***There's a Voice in the Wilderness – No. 255***

**Vs. 1** There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

**Vs. 2** O Jerusalem, herald good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their king.  
Like flow'rs of the field we perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the pow'r and the pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.

**Vs. 3** But the word of our Saviour is faithful,  
the arm of our God is strong,  
who stands in the midst of the nations  
and soon will right the wrong.  
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
in pastures of peace now lead them,  
and bring them to your fold.

# **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 the People**

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **Peace Sharing**

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

## **Offering Song**

### ***Prepare the Royal Highway* – No. 264**

**Vs. 1** Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

**Refrain:** Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

**Vs. 2** God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!

**Refrain:** Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!



**Vs. 3** Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing:

**Refrain:** Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

**Vs. 4** His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding:

**Refrain:** Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

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# Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our  
thanks and praise.**

# **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

# **Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace. Amen.



## Communion Songs

### ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – No. 257**

**Vs. 1** O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 2** O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 3** O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 4** O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 5** O come, O 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:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 6** O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 7** O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs. 8** O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.



# ***Let Justice Flow like Streams – No. 717***

**Vs. 1** Let justice flow like streams  
of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life,  
abundant, cleansing, sure.

**Vs. 2** Let righteousness roll on  
as others' cares we heed,  
an ever-flowing stream of faith  
translated into deed.

**Vs. 3** So may God's plumb line, straight,  
define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade  
this world our whole life through.

## **Sending Song**

### ***Comfort, Comfort Now My People – No. 256***

**Vs. 1** "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.

**Vs. 2** For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Saviour;  
hills, bow down in humble favour.

**Vs. 3** Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

**Dismissal... Thanks be to God.**

# **Worship Assistants**

**Assisting Minister:** Boston Laferté

**Musician:** Carolyn Hoekstra

**Kantor:** Nathan McDonald

**Choral Scholar:** DJ McGrath

**Livestream:** Christopher McDonald

**Communion:** Ann Baty, Judy Bergbusch

**Ushers:** Don Storch, Laura Cochran

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