

First Sunday of Advent

Promise of the Messiah

In God, we have a robust history behind us and a hopeful future in front of us.

HOPE



December 3, 2023 10:00am

*Worshiping and Growing Together in Christ
Serving and Reaching Out Joyfully to All!*

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

*If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please fill out the **Welcome Card** located in the pew racks. Once filled out, please place the card either in the offering basket as you come forward to receive communion or at the information desk as you enter the narthex. Thank you and we look forward to getting to know you!*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

We await the coming of Christ,
At his birth and at the end of time.
We await the coming of Christ
With hope in our hearts, we wait.

Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

Ever-present God, **we come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.**

The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sins. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness. Amen.

Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 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.

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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

God of promise, **stir up in us the anticipation of this holy season of waiting. Fill our hearts with hope for the messiah's coming, and give us patience, for your time is not our time, and we do not know the day or the hour. Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God makes a new covenant with God's people and promises to do a new thing: send a messiah who will save God's people and rule in righteousness.

Invitation to the Word

Red ELW 528

Come and fill our hearts with your *hope*.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your *hope*.
Alleluia! Repeat

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-18

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and

righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."
¹⁷For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to make grain offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Mark 8:27-29

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you. O Lord.**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ Children's Time +



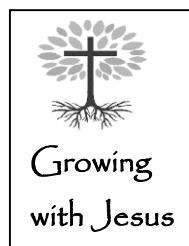
Lighting of the Advent Candle

ELW 240 vs. 1

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.**

Message

Children's Church
*Children age 3 – 4th Gr.
During message*



Faith Talk
*Youth 5th – 12th Grade
After worship*

Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

Proclamation of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

God – who created the light and separated it from the darkness
- I Believe

Jesus – who is the light and shines in the darkness
Yet is not overcome by it
- I Believe

Spirit – who spreads the light into the darkness of our world
- I Believe

Prayers of the People

In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church,
the world, and all in need.

Prayer response:

God of Promise, **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in
your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace

During the virus season, we invite you to be mindful of each other's comfort level during the passing of the peace. Feel free to shake hands or give a hug but a wave or nod is a good option as well! Sanitizer is available in each pew.

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Options on how to receive Holy Communion

You may come forward and stand, starting at the center and filling in along the step. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and those waiting will then fill in the empty space. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you with the words spoken:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor.

You are invited...

To bring an **offering** forward before or after worship or during Holy Communion.

The offering is gathered in front of the communion table where we are reminded of God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

Invitation

Christ Jesus, who is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, invites you to feast in his just and holy reign. As we receive these gifts, we send our blessing to those who are not with us today that they be nourished and strengthened through the hands and feet of those gathered here.

Come share in the bread and wine that is Christ's body and blood, and be strengthened for this time of waiting.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!
(repeated numerous times)

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

God we rejoice in you no matter our circumstances. With generous hearts we offer what we can for the life of the world, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

God blesses us and sends us put in mission to the world

Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Hark the Glad Sound

ELW 239 vs. 1,2,4

**Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**

Sending

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

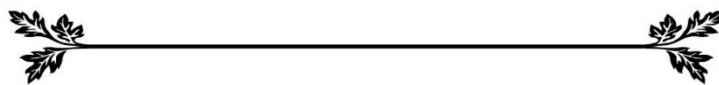
Postlude



Your Advent journey continues as you leave
worship today!

Learn how you can join together with others in serving our neighbors near and far
by visiting a tree in the narthex.

- **ELCA Good Gifts:** ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support various partnership-based ministries that focus on the needs identified by local congregations and global companion churches and their communities.
- **Hat & Mitten Tree:** Bring new mittens/gloves and winter hats and hang them on the tree. They will be distributed to those in need.
- **Lutheran Disaster Response:** Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.
- **Border Servant Corp.: INSPIRING UNITY | BUILDING ENGAGED COMMUNITIES**
Border Servant Corps promotes and demonstrates justice, kindness, and humility through the intentional exploration of community, simplicity, social justice, and spirituality in the U.S./México border region.
- **Joy's Kitchen: Building a Caring, Sustainable Community**
Joy's Kitchen is more than just a place for food assistance; it's a space where the community comes together, working hand in hand to make a difference. Our focus is on authentic and intentional collaboration to address food insecurity and waste at the grassroots level.



Advent Prayer Room

During the season of Advent, you are invited to learn & experience praying silently with our whole selves and as a community as we grow in our relationship with God. The library will be transformed into a prayer room where we you can rest in body, mind & spirit.

Come . . . be still.

*The Prayer Room is available before & after each service.
Location: Library, west of the information center.*

+ WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES +

- **THANK YOU** for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers, wheelchairs, or electric carts and their families.
- **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES (4 devices available)** are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side.
- **PRAYER STATION** is available **in the back of the sanctuary and library** before and after worship for candle-lighting.
- **FELLOWSHIP:** Once service has concluded, if you would like to greet one another, the narthex, fellowship hall, library and columbarium are available for fellowship.

OFFERING

If you would like to make a donation to the mission of Holy Shepherd, which will be used to serve the community, neighborhood and the world, there is an offering plate located at the front of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to:
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. *Thank you.*

NURSERY

The nursery (un-staffed) will be available to use for your family, if you need to leave the service. The library and Fellowship Hall are also available.

Narrative Lectionary Worship Resources



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Participants

- Pastors: Julie Brooks & Kim Gonia
- Organist/Pianist: Jordan Ortman
- Reader: Betty Moody
- Communion Assistants: Bonnie Yockstick, Marcy Lloyd
- Greeters: Mary Ann Evancheck, Amy Evancheck
- Usher: Michael Boehm
- Altar Guild: Susie DiPaolo
- Faith Talk: Nancy Bybee
- Children's Church: Jan Eckersley
- Technology: Judy Ekberg, Mark Lee
- Fellowship Hosts: The Gathering: Annette Gillcrist, Joan Meister-Bridges

Song Resource Key

ELW: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*

ACS: *All Creation Sings*

HSSB: *Holy Shepherd Songbook*

WOV: *With One Voice*

If you would like to give an offering to support the ministries of Holy Shepherd, please feel free to use the PayPal link as an option.



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

920 Kipling Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 303.233.2740

www.holyshepherd.com