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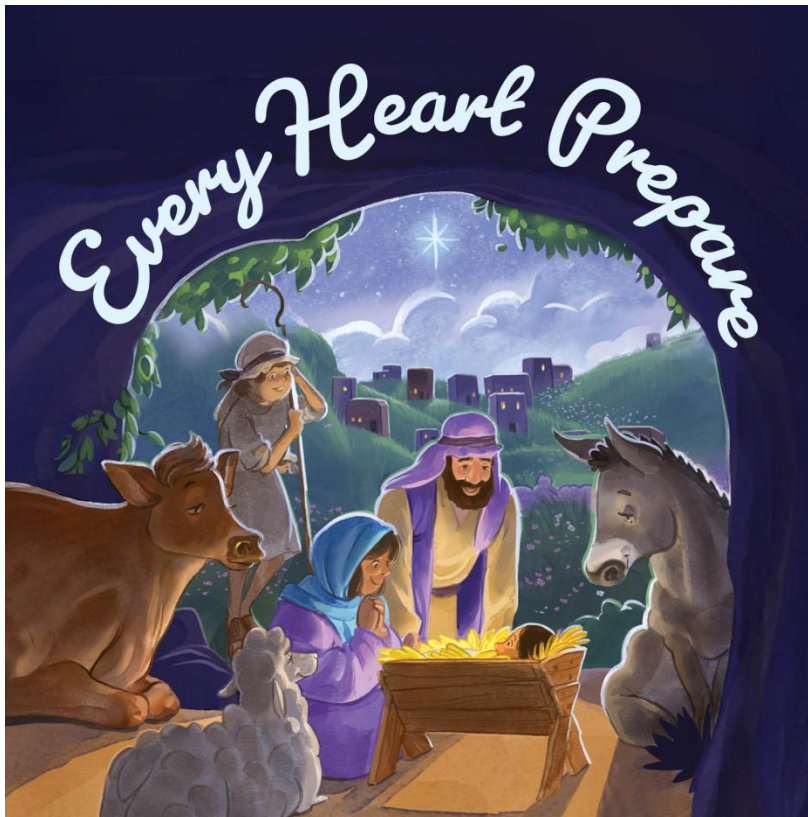
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December 10, 2025

Wednesday Advent 2



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 130 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

## **Greeting and prayer:** (Pastor)

This Advent season as we look forward again to the coming of the Savior we are taking a fresh look at three familiar Christmas decorations and see how they draw our eyes and hearts to Jesus and His work of salvation.

Tonight, we focus on lights which picture for us the light of Jesus and His Gospel. We pray that the Holy Spirit would bless our worship and study of His Word, and so, we begin our worship service with prayer...

## **Opening Hymn: 349 *Hark the Glad Sound***

LSB 349

### **Advent Invocation**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

- P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

- P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.  
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,  
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,  
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**
- P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.

**C** Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.  
**As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,**  
**increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.**  
**Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**

**P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us.  
 In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus,  
 the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate.  
 Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins,  
 and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood  
 on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

LSB 379 v. 2

2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
*Refrain*  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.  
 Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Lord of light and life, You came into our world to remove sin and restore us to righteousness. Shine Your light into our hearts and cleanse us from all the deceiving evils that lurk within them, that we may live without fear of this world but joyfully anticipate Your glorious return. We pray this in Your saving name, dear Jesus, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined. . . .

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## Second Reading

## 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (ESV)

**P** The second reading is from 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.

**G Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

LSB 357 v. 1

1 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!

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

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed** *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**☐ I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,  
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,  
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,  
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,  
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood  
and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,  
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;  
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

**This is most certainly true!**

**Hymn of the Day: 337 *The Night Will Soon Be Ending***

*LSB 337*

**Sermon Text: John 1:1-9 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**Sermon Theme: "Every Heart Prepare" – Lights**

- † What do the LIGHTS on Christmas decorations symbolize?
  
- † How do the LIGHTS on Christmas decorations point us to Christ's first Advent?
  
- † How do the LIGHTS on Christmas decorations point us to Christ's second Advent?

## Offertory

LSB 956

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.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583–1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Hymn: 362 O Sing of Christ**

LSB 362

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

## **Prayer of the Church (Responsive)** *We bring our prayers to God.*

- P** Dear Heavenly Father, give us eyes to behold Your hand in all creation.  
For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through artistry and decorations,
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth and encourage each another all the more as we see the Day—the Last Day—drawing near,
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed,
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may be thankful for the many blessings we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to those who are poor and in need,
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus,
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may not be lured into temptation or despair, or be so distracted by the external trappings of Christmas around us that we neglect or forget the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts,
- C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Help us to focus our hearts, minds and lives on You during this Advent and Christmas season.**
- P** Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from You.
- C** **Thank You for sending Your Son to bring the light of life into the world and shining it into our hearts through the Gospel.**

- P** Give us Your Spirit to uphold us as we walk through the dark places in our life and in our world.
- C** **Grant that our faith does not grow dim but, by Your grace, increase our faith so that we reflect Christ's light and radiate Your goodness and glory each day, and that many may join us in Your light and also walk with You**
- P** We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who also taught us to pray:

### Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

### Benediction *The "Apostolic Blessing" (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

### The Doxology

LSB 805

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
 crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
 host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

**Closing Hymn: 357 v. 6 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (please remain standing)

6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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

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## **Announcements**



**Welcome!** We welcome all our visitors tonight.  
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today: **Wed. Advent Worship #2 – 6:30pm**  
12/10/25

Thursday – **Board of Property Meeting – 5:30pm**

Church Cleaning: Team #7 (12/6-12/12); Team #8 (12/13-12/19)

This Sunday:  
12/14/25

**Choir Practice – 8am**

**Worship – 9am**

**Children’s Christmas Program Practice & Bible Class – 10:15am**



**Wed. Advent Worship 12/3, 12/10, & 12/17 @ 6:30pm** – Please join us for our three Wednesday Advent Worship Services beginning on **Wed. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm**. Our series this year is entitled: “Every Heart Prepare.” Advent is the church’s season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the nativity scene.

**Immanuel Christmas Concert – Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** - The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting “Light Born From Light” (O Nata Lux de Lumine) on **Friday, December 19, 2025 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703**. The evening will begin at **7:00 p.m.**, with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. It is open to the public and admission is free. The service will also be streaming live at <http://www.youtube.com/@ilcvideos>

## **The Advent Wreath**



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for repentance (or blue, which is meant to suggest anticipation and hope). The rose (pink) candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**.

**The Christ Candle** is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

## **Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2025**

**Wed. Advent Worship Services** – Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

**Christmas Eve – Wed. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – 6pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service  
& Children’s Program

**Christmas Day – Thurs. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30am - Christmas Day Worship Service



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