



LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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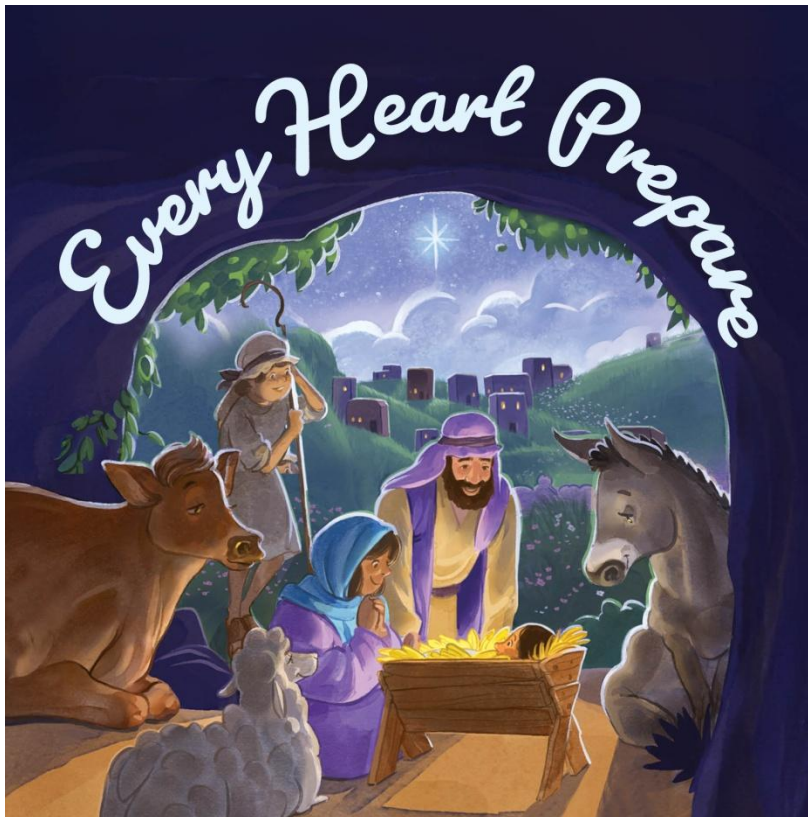
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December 3, 2025

Wednesday Advent 1



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 18 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Decorations are a very special and important part of our preparations for the celebration of Christmas. If you don't think this is true, just imagine a Christmas with no decorations! We decorate our homes and our churches, both inside and out. But do we always think about what these beautiful Christmas decorations mean? This Advent season as we look forward again to the coming of the Savior we will take 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 evergreens and how they picture the eternal life Jesus won for us. 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: 350 *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

LSB 350

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 344 v. 2, 5

2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:
 Lord of all beauty, You made the heavens and the earth; the world and all its fullness
 are Yours. Thank You for giving us life and filling creation with signs that declare Your
 glory. As we behold beautiful evergreens this season, fix our eyes on their thorny
 leaves and red berries that we may give thanks for the crown Your Son wore and the
 cross He bore for us. Abide in us always, as we abide in Your Word and take heart in
 the promise of eternal life with Jesus. We pray this in His name, who lives and reigns
 with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV)

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Choir Song: "O Come, Divine Messiah"

O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

Dear Savior, haste; Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show thy face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, divine Messiah; The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

O thou, whom nations sighed for, Whom priests and prophets long foretold,
Wilt break the captive fetters, Redeem the long-lost fold.

Shalt come, in peace and meekness, And lowly will thy cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness Shall we thy Godhead see.

Gospel Reading

John 11:17-27 (ESV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 11:17-27.

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

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have

died. ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

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!

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

The 2nd Article of the Apostle’s Creed *with explanation from Luther’s Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

C 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: "The Holly and the Ivy"

1 The hol - ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown,
 2 The hol - ly bears a blos - som as white as an - y flow'r,
 3 The hol - ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood,
 4 The hol - ly bears a prick - le as sharp as an - y thorn,
 5 The hol - ly bears a bark as bitter as an - y gall,
 6 The hol - ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown,

Of all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the crown.
 And Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ to be our sweet Sav - ior.
 And Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ to do poor sin - ners good.
 And Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ on Christ-mas Day in the morn.
 And Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ for to re - deem us all.
 Of all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the crown.

Refrain

Oh, the ris - ing of the sun and the run - ning of the deer.

The play - ing of the mer - ry or - gan, sweet sing - ing in the choir.

Text and tune: Public domain

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Sermon Text: Hosea 14:8 (ESV)

⁸O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
 It is I who answer and look after you.
 I am like an evergreen cypress;
 from Me comes your fruit.

Sermon Theme: “Every Heart Prepare” – Evergreens

- † What do the EVERGREEN Christmas decorations symbolize?
- † How do the EVERGREEN Christmas decorations point us to Christ’s first Advent?
- † How do the EVERGREEN 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: 561 *The Tree of Life*

LSB 561

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 other 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** Lord of life, You sent Your Son to bring back to life all the children of Adam.
- C** **Grant that we may view the evergreens of this season through the eyes of faith,**
- P** so that in a world still filled with death we may be of good courage, knowing that, just as the evergreen prevails over death in winter, we prevail over the winter of our sin and will rise to life eternal on the Last Day. 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. 4 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *(please remain standing)*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
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

Announcements



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

Today: **Wed. Advent Worship #1 – 6:30pm**
12/3/25

Church Cleaning: Team #6 (11/29-12/5); Team #7 (12/6-12/12)

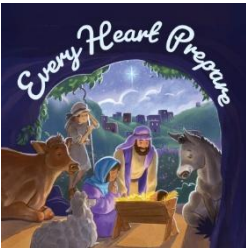
Next Sunday: **Choir Practice – 8am**
12/7/25 **Worship w/Communion – 9am**
Children’s Christmas Program Practice & Bible Class – 10:15am
Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper – 4pm

In Your Mailbox – Messiah Church Calendar - *December*



Christmas Caroling – This Sunday, Dec. 7th – Meet at Church @ 4pm – Our Christmas Caroling will be held this **Sunday evening, Dec. 7th**. We'll plan to **meet at church at 4pm** and will be singing at The Villa in Greenfield (4:30pm) and New Perspective in Franklin (approx. 5:30pm). We plan to meet back at church afterwards for a chili supper. Please come and join us spread some Christmas cheer as we sing of our Savior, who is the reason for the season!

Children’s Christmas Eve Program Practices Begin This Sunday, Dec. 7th @ 10:15am – The Children’s Christmas Eve Program practices will be held during the Sunday School hour during the month of December in the sanctuary: Dec. 7th, 14th, and 21st.



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. 3rd @ 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.

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. 3rd, 10th, & 17th @ 6:30pm

Christmas Eve – Wed. Dec. 24th – 6pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
& Children’s Program

Christmas Day – Thurs. Dec. 25th – 10:30am - Christmas Day Worship Service



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