

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.

Distribution of Communion

Distribution Hymn *What Child Is This* ELW #296

Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Threefold Amen

Closing Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* ELW #288

Christmas Carol: *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* ELW #536

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C: Thanks be to God!



The Christmas story is one of hope. It is a message for each of us at any stage of life’s journey, reminding us that in our own dark nights, Christ, the Light of the world, has come. This versatile musical is a blend of new and familiar Christmas melodies.

Director: Shelly Berg Accompanist: Gingi Hanson

Narrators: Kathy Reisenweber and Lyndon Severtson

Morning Star: Lloyd Larson

Soprano
Janet Andersen
Sarah Rust
Ellen Schmidt
Ella Schoolcraft
Lesley Schoolcraft
Tricia Steen
Ruth Tieszen
Kristen Vanden Hull

Alto
Georgia Backer
Sylvia Benson
Valerie Carlson
Linda Hengeveld
Olivia Jacobs
Sue Johannsen
Amy Johnson
Susan Kruse
Emily Muller
Sarah Nohr
Kathy Reisenweber

Baritone
Denis Andersen
Rick Bonander
Dale Hanson
Dan Hanson
Kelly Kruse
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Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!
“If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to Become a member, contact any member, or the church office.”

Sunday, December 21st, 2025; 9:30 am **4th Sunday of Advent**

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Fourth - The Candle of Joy (Pink Candle)

Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Leader: May your hearts be filled with joy as you hear the song of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Last Sunday, we lit the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Love.

(A person now lights the candles of Hope, Peace, and Love)

Today, we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy, as we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Luke Chapter 1

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the childbearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all. Blessed be God forever.

(Light the fourth pink candle now)

Leader: Let us pray
All: Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas, and bless us, your children, who long for your coming.

Advent Song *He Came Down* ELW #253 vs. 4

Confession and Forgiveness
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

C: 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 neighbors. 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.
P: 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 Savior.
Amen.

Opening Hymn: *O’ Come, O’ Come, Emmanuel* ELW #257 vss. 1 & 2

Apostolic Greeting
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

Call to Worship Psalm 80
P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
C: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
P: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
C: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.
P: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
C: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

P: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
C: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Prayer of the Day:
P: Let us pray.
C: O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world’s redemption in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Gospel Acclamation: *All Earth is Hopeful* ELW #266 Vs. 4

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25
(After the reading is announced: C: Glory to you, O Lord.)
Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.
(After the reading, P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.)

Children’s Sermon Pastor Josh Schunk
Homily Pastor Josh Schunk

Hymn of the Day: *Morning Star Christmas Cantata*

Offering

Offering Hymn: *People, Look East* ELW #248

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be