



**A REAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATES  
WHY CHRIST CAME**

*First Sunday in Advent  
December 1/2, 2024*

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

## FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

*Restrooms:* are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

*Nursery:* We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

*For Kids:* Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

A parent says, "I want to give my kid a real Christmas." They might be thinking of the fullest experience for their child, the experience of Christmas traditions, food, family time, and gifts. But what makes Christmas real? The season of Advent ("coming") prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas. In these weeks before Christmas, we prepare our hearts to meet Jesus, drawing the connection between his coming as our Savior and his coming again as our Judge.



## WE CELEBRATE WHY CHRIST CAME

Here in the beginning of December it is easy to rush ahead to the visual of the baby lying in the manger under the Bethlehem stars and forget the *why*. Why did the Son of God come into our world and take on human flesh? So that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins.

Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey less than a week before his crucifixion. The Palm Sunday gospel shows us Jesus was willing to endure anything for our salvation. A real Christmas celebrates why Christ came.

## OPENING HYMN

## 302 Prepare the Royal Highway, sts. 1, 4

*The cantor sings stanza one and the first refrain. The congregation joins on stanza two.*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a  
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of  
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

*STAND*

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

*James 4:6,10; Psalm 130:3-4*

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.**

### 975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord, st. 1

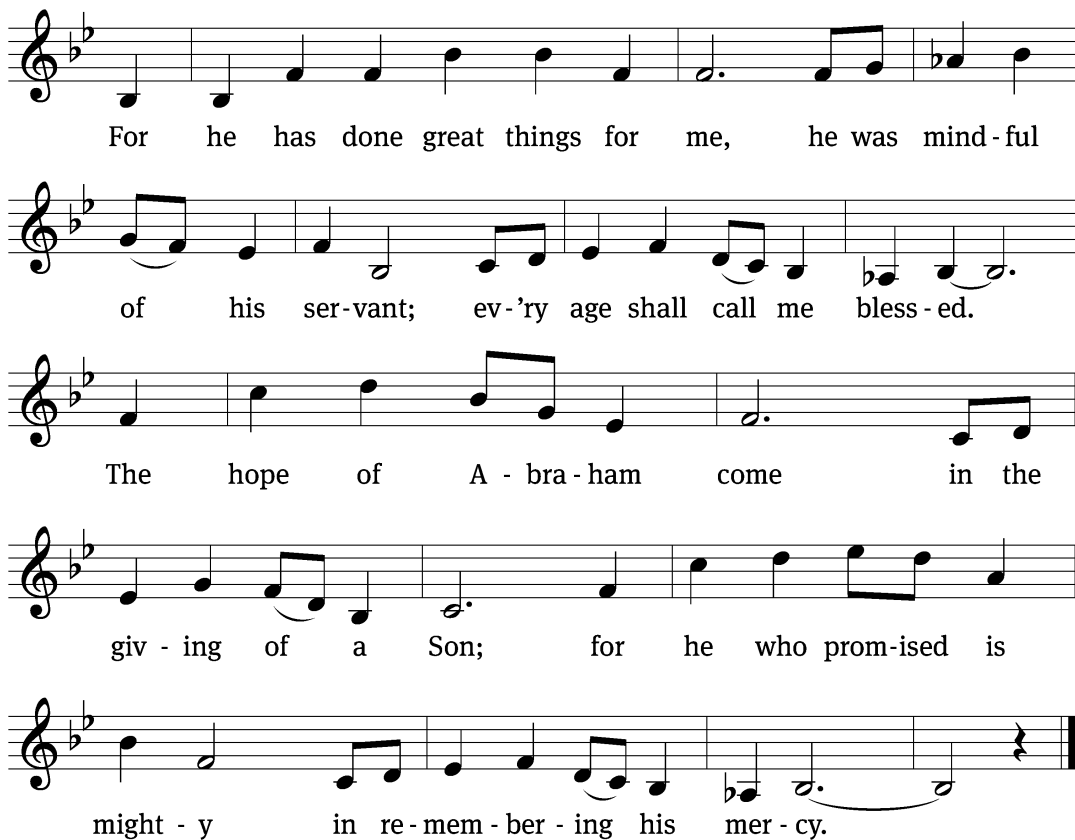
*The cantor sings the stanza. Join in singing as you are comfortable.*



1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my



Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.



For he has done great things for me, he was mind-ful  
of his ser-vant; ev-'ry age shall call me bless-ed.  
The hope of A-bra-ham come in the  
giv-ing of a Son; for he who prom-ised is  
might-y in re-mem-ber-ing his mer-cy.

## ABSOLUTION

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor,  
so that we through his poverty might become rich.**

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## 975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord, st. 2

*The cantor leads the congregation in singing.*

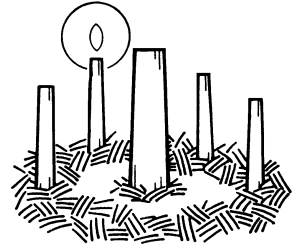
2 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord for his grace to those who  
fear him through ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.  
The proud he scat - ters to the wind as the rul - er's  
strength is bro - ken, and the rich are left with noth - ing.  
The hum - ble lift - ed high, and the  
hun - gry sat - is - fied; our por - tion and our  
treas - ure, our hope and help for - ev - er.

*BE SEATED*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

**We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time.  
None of us know what day that will be.**



We hear his call to watch.

**We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14–16

*The LORD promised that a descendant of King David would be our righteous Savior.*

<sup>14</sup>Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time,

I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line.

He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

<sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved,

and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

This is what she\* will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

*Christ came the first time so that by his saving work we might be found blameless and holy when he comes again.*

<sup>9</sup>Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints<sup>†</sup>.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

STAND

---

\* that is, Jerusalem

† Or *holy ones*, referring to the holy angels



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Zechariah 9:9**

Alleluia, alleluia.

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey.

Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

**Luke 19:28–40**

*Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey colt. Soon he would be put to death.  
This is why Christ came.*

<sup>28</sup>After Jesus had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>As he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ahead, <sup>30</sup>saying, “Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you will say this: ‘The Lord needs it.’”

<sup>32</sup>Those who were sent ahead went and found things just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

<sup>34</sup>They said, “The Lord needs it.”

<sup>35</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their robes on the colt and set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he went along, people spread their robes on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God joyfully, with a loud voice, for all the miracles they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

<sup>40</sup>He replied, “I tell you, if these people would be silent, the stones would cry out.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*BE SEATED*

HYMN OF THE DAY

**301 Savior of the Nations, Come**

*Men sing stanza two. Women sing stanza three.*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the  
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the  
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -  
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 Spir - it of our God was the Word of  
 vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the  
 cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing  
 God the Son, our King, praise to God the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
 death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!  
 Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

SERMON

**Luke 19:28-40**

*Unstoppable Jesus*

STAND

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

**May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!*

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).*



## OFFERING SONG

## King of Kings

*In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt*

*Praise the Father Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit Three in one  
God of glory Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

*To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died*

*Praise the Father Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit Three in one*

*God of glory Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

*And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored*

*And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel Shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me*

*Praise the Father Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit Three in one  
God of glory Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

# THE SACRAMENT

*STAND*

## PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,



bles-sed is he, bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

## 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases marked with slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*BE SEATED*

## DISTRIBUTION

*For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.*



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing



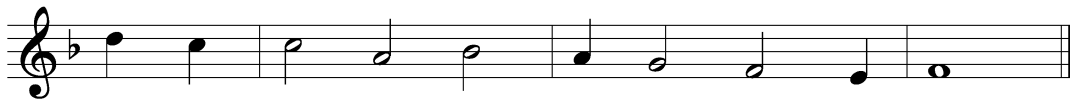
1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
 sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
 pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
 where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and  
 foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
 her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
 death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

STAND

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN**

**313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes, sts. 1, 4**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

BE SEATED

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Ushers: Bill Neubauer (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45)

Scripture Readers: Mike King (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45)

Accompanist: Jake Odell

Cantor: Emma Bodway

Communion Assistants: Dave Huebner, Adam Schwede (8:00), James Kruse, Adam Grissom (10:45)

---

### 302 Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847 Tune: Swedish, 17th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

### 975 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### 301 Savior of the Nations, Come

Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain.

### King of Kings

Words and music: Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC). Used by permission: CCLI no. 1180837.

### 360 Behold a Branch Is Growing

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599 Text and tune: Public domain.

### 316 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt. Text and tune: Public domain.

### Holy Bible

Unless otherwise indicated, scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. or The New International Version®, NIV® copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® All rights reserved. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Based on Setting One of *The Service* from Christian Worship. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

---

## CONTACT US

Dave Backus, Pastor

920.716.7987

Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher

920.858.3933

Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager

920.749.9744

Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



WEE-LOVE.ORG



WELS.NET