



ADVENT

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Imminent Arrival of THE MESSIAH

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14/15, 2025

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.

ABOUT OUR SERIES: IMMINENT ARRIVAL

The feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place: a mixture of excitement and nervousness. *Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?*

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. And we realize that he is present with us already in his Word and sacraments. Nervousness gives way to excitement because of his imminent arrival.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE: IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF *THE MESSIAH*

The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" (Hebrew) is the same word as "Christ" (Greek) or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent! The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus. This joy is the reason behind the tradition of having the third advent candle be pink.

The chapel lights remain dimmed until the lighting of the advent wreath.

REMAIN SEATED

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

HYMN

315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord sts. 1–2, 4–6

During stanza four young children may come forward for the children's message.



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head that, set free from
6 And, when you shall come a - gain as a glo - rious



kept his word and at last to us did send
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;
doubt and dread, I may cling to you in faith,
king to reign, I with joy may see your face,



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.
safe - ly kept through life and death,
free - ly ran - somed by your grace.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE and LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Three Advent candles are lit. The chapel lights brighten.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Children return to their seats.

STAND

CONFESSION OF SINS

John the Baptizer was sent to prepare the world for Jesus by calling everyone to repent of their sins. This Advent season it is good for us to do the same, seeking the Lord's mercy.

Lord God, you know my sin and guilt. Nothing is hidden from you, not even the thoughts of my mind and the desires of my heart.

Lord, have mercy upon me.

I repent of sins of thought, word, and deed.

Wash me thoroughly from my sin, O Lord, in the blood of your dear Son, my Savior Jesus Christ.

John's ministry pointed to Jesus. He would say, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." And that is exactly what Jesus has done for you, dear Christian. By his perfect life and innocent sufferings and death, Jesus took away your sin by removing its guilt. Therefore, in the name of + Jesus, I proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness to you.

Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

362 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising sts. 1, 4, 6



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, from sin's
6 Gra - cious Child, in mer - cy hear us, from your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; loud - ly sing his
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, from the grief that
low - ly man - ger cheer us, gent - ly lead us



love a - maz - ing, wor - thy folk of Christ - en - dom.
sore dis - tressed us, we, the cap - tives, now are free.
and be near us till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BE SEATED

The coming Messiah will bring joy with his miracles and spiritual blessings.

¹The wilderness and the desert will be
glad.

The wasteland of the Arabah will
rejoice and blossom like a crocus.

²It will bloom lavishly,
and there will be great joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to
it.

It will be excellent like Carmel and
Sharon.

They will see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make the shaky knees steady.

⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart:
Be strong.
Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with
vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will
come and save you.

⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be
opened,
and the ears of the deaf will be
unplugged.

⁶The crippled will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute will sing for
joy.

Waters will flow in the wilderness,
and streams in the wasteland.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
and in the thirsty ground there will be
springs of water.

There will be grass, reeds, and rushes
where the haunts of jackals once
lay.

⁸A highway will be there,
a road that will be called the holy way.
The impure will not walk there.

It will be reserved for those who walk
in that holy way.

Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor will any ferocious animal go up on
it.

They will not be found there,
but only the redeemed will walk there.

¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will
return.

They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,
and everlasting joy will crown their
heads.

Happiness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 5:7–11

Christian patience and endurance is fueled by the Lord's compassion and mercy.

⁷Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. ⁸You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

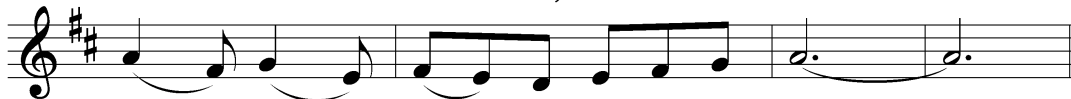
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



Refrain

Come to us, Em - man - u - el; come and set your peo - ple free.

The words and works of Jesus proclaim him divine—the promised Messiah.

²While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’* ¹¹Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

* Malachi 3:1

HYMN OF THE DAY

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You sts. 1-3



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
- 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
- 3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
 De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.

SERMON

James 5:7-11

Patience Prompts

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**O God, you are the Holy One of Israel. You can make the desert blossom. Drive out our
fear with your promise of power.**

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

Give us hope as we wait for our Lord's second coming, patience as we deal with hardship, and compassion as we deal with those who suffer.

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

Guide those you have established as authorities over us. Give them wisdom, mercy and eagerness to serve the people in their care.

Strengthen their feeble hands. **Steady their weak knees.**

All healing of body and soul comes from you. We pray for all who are sick or suffering or enduring losses, [*especially...*]. Heal their diseases, relieve their pain, restore their strength if it is your will.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

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).



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!

OFFERING SONG

Jesus Messiah

*He became sin
Who knew no sin
That we might become His Righteousness
He humbled himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing
Love so amazing*

*Jesus Messiah
Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer
Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all*

*His body the bread
His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled
And the veil was torn
Love so amazing
Love so amazing, yeah*

*Jesus Messiah
Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer
Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all*

*All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You, God
The light of the world*

Jesus Messiah
Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer
Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners
The ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
You're the Lord of all!
The Lord of all

HYMN

322 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The cantor leads the congregation in singing.

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in
 set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and
 all the earth thou art, dear de - sire of
 child and yet a king, born to reign in
 all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -
 sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

God and Father, we thank you for the gift of this day and the many gifts you lovingly give to us as your children. Especially we praise you for your Word and Sacraments. Give us strength for the week ahead. For our families, our health, our joys together, for the presence of your holy angels to watch over us, for much needed rest, and for all your gifts we praise and thank you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the presence of the eternal God—the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you. May his grace guard your heart, your mouth, and your hands as you serve him, with his light to guide you, his power to strengthen you, and his Spirit to cheer you.

Amen.

The cantor sings the hymn. The congregation joins in singing the final refrain.

1 *O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;
O let me ne'er in sorrow pine.
My heart, my soul, yea, all my being,
O Jesus, trust alone in thee.
Thou Prince of Peace, thou Pearl from heaven,
true God, true man, my Morning Star! Refrain*

2 *O Jesus, with thy advent quiet
my restless soul and anxious mind.
In true humility I welcome
thee, Jesus Christ, my joy divine.
My thoughts, desires, and all my longings
I dedicate, O Christ, to thee. Refrain*

Refrain

O come, thou pre - cious Sun most ra - dant, thy beams il -
lu - mine my heart, my soul. O come, thou pre - cious
Sun most ra - dant, thy beams il - lu - mine my heart, my soul.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Usher: Neil Jeske (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45), Chuck Hildebrandt (Monday)

Lector: Pete Neuberger (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger Cantor: Adam Schwede

315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord sts. 1–2, 4–6

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter. Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Text (sts. 1–2, 5–6) and tune: Public domain

362 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising sts. 1, 4, 6

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: German, 14th cent. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain

Gospel Acclamation

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324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You sts. 1–3

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. Composite. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

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322 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker. Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer by George Kraus, adapted.

326 O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

Text: Wilhelm Osterwald, 1820–1887; tr. Walter E. Buszin, 1899–1973. Tune: Johann Franck, 1618–1677. Text: © 1939 Paul A. Schmitt Music Co.; ren. 1967 Schmitt, Hall & McCreary Company All rights assigned to and owned by Jubilate Music Group, LLC. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain

Jesus Messiah

Written by: Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves. Album: Hello Love. Released: 2008

Holy Bible

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Setting Eight (German) from Christian Worship

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