

Worship
First Sunday of Advent
In the Time of Herod, We Long for God to Break In
November 30, 2025
9:00am



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH
651-451-6225
www.goodshepherdigh.com

Welcome to Worship

Whether one's feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is:
Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism*

L. On Sundays and Mondays,

C. on good days and bad days,

L. early in the morning and very late at night,

C. here in this room, and out in the world,

God, we long for you to break in.

L. Meet us in this space.

C. Surprise us with your presence.

L. Fill this room with your good news.

C. With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

SONG *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* *Children gather during Opening Song*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

WORSHIP MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

CANDLE LIGHTING

L. In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

Children: **We see hope in Church**

C. We see hope when we look to the next generation.

We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

L. You are right.

Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

L. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Candle is lit.

C. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* *Children return to their seats*
O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. Let us pray together,

C. God of holy interruptions, in the time of Herod, when fear reigned and silence lingered too long, you sent your word to break through despair. Stir our longing hearts, awaken our hope, and break into our lives with the promise of your nearness. Make us ready to believe that even in fear, you are speaking. Through Jesus Christ, the hope of the nations. Amen.

BIBLE READING Luke 1:5-13

During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John.

The Word of the Lord

C. Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE Pastor Courtney Steitz

SONG *"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold the Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-kindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God,
who comes to us in the darkness –
not with fear, but with light.
Not in power, but in vulnerability.
Not with judgment, but with mercy.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's hope born into our weary world –
who faced violence with peace,
rejection with love,
and death with life everlasting.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who breathes courage into us,
who stirs our longing for justice,
and who insists that hope is not naïve,
hope is not passive,
hope is the defiant light
that will not be overcome.**

**So even in fear,
even in uncertainty,
even in waiting –
we insist on hope.
We insist on Emmanuel:
God with us, now and always.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following is said after each prayer petition

P. In the shadow of fear

C. We place our hope in you

OFFERING RECEIVED

(All who are able, please stand)

OFFERTORY SONG

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Once in Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our lord in heav'n above; and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

P. In a fearful world,

May you look for God's spirit.

P. May you reach for each other's hands.

C. May we choose courage whenever we can.

And in all things, may we remember that good news is louder than fear.

P. In the name of the one who calls,

the one who sends,

and the one who journeys with.

SONG *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree. So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace and be not afraid.

C. For we insist on hope this Advent!

POSTLUDE