



Lord of Life
Lutheran Church



*Loved by God,
Sent to Serve.*

**3rd Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting Two

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

**TEMPLE OF PEACE
Setting, Roberta Rowland-Raybold**

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the \dagger Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *Gather Us In* (vs. 1, 2, 4)

ELW 532

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away--
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission One License #A-718383

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Melody: Puer Nobis

Public Domain

**The joy of Jesus is our song.
We praise and love him all along
In word and deed and thought and way
He is our constant ev'ry day.**

L: Mary sang to God for the precious gift of Jesus as a sign to celebrate him.

C: We open our mouth to rejoice in him.

L: From generation to generation, the praise continues for the Lord.

C: Let every tongue bless his name.

L: The whole earth is filled with God's glory.

C: Holy is the Lord.

Almighty is the Lord, God's Son,
Who over death has vict'ry won.
With happy hearts and voices clear
We celebrate that Christ is here.

L: We are designed by God to serve as reflections of the great gratitude we have for Jesus.

C: Let our lives be filled with thanksgiving.

L: The journey Jesus took from cradle to cross for us inspires us to express our excitement.

C: Let the sinless life of Christ and his sacrifice for our sins lift our spirits up to him.

At birth Christ laid in manger bed.
By Spirit of our God he led
A perfect life that we might be
Forgiven for eternity.

L: Each moment of our lives is a gift to be enjoyed because it has come to us through Christ.

C: Let us receive his goodness with gladness.

In Christ we are made new each morn
For our salvation he was born.
In heaven we will shout "Amen."
There will be no more sorrow then.

Kyrie

ELW p. 120

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Canticle of Praise

ELW p. 121

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10 (read responsively)

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.**
Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

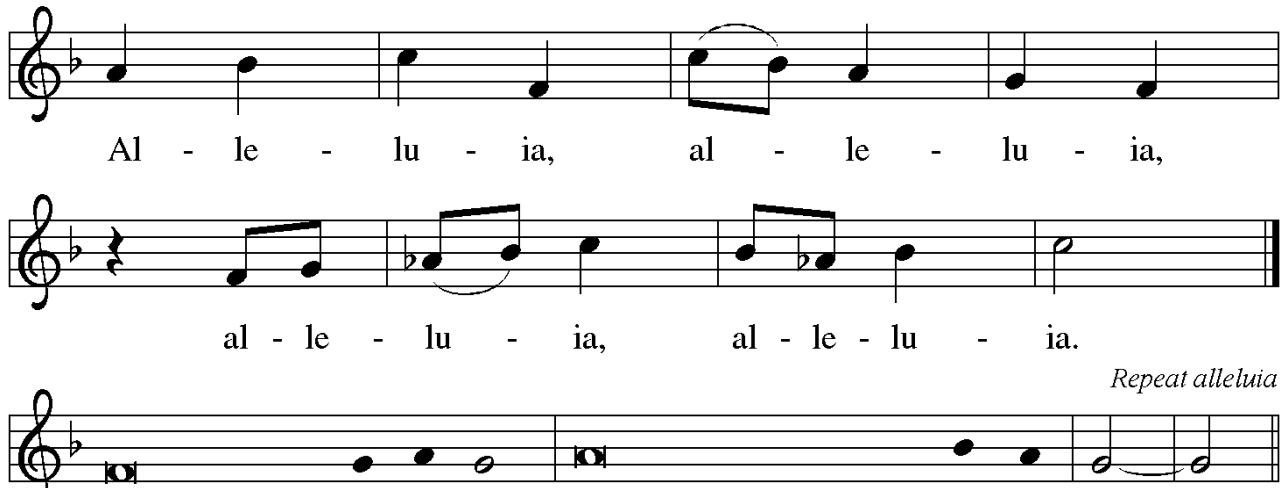
In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation



The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first two staves are identical, showing the beginning of the Alleluia chant. The third staff continues the chant and concludes with a final statement.
The lyrics are:
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Paul Amlin

Hymn of the Day: *Christ, Be Our Light*

ELW 715

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **Refrain**

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. **Refrain**

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Used by Permission One License #A-718383

© 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

...God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
...in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory Music: “*Veni, Emmanuel*”

setting, Timothy Shaw

Offering: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.



Scan code to give now.

Offering Prayer in Unison

Let us pray together.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God

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

Communion Distribution Songs: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. **Refrain**
- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. **Refrain**

Text and music: African American spiritual

Public Domain

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission One License #A-718383

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Song: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW 264

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:
Refrain
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!
- 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: **Refrain**
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

**REJOICE REJOICE
setting, Dave Mackie**

Announcements

Worship Online

Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/2PvSCQJ>
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371
Passcode: Luther

Phone in at:

(312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371
Passcode: 456037

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are given by Jim and Bernita Gilbertson in memory of Carl and Bernadine Freymiller.

Midweek Advent Services

Join us Wednesday as we sing Holden Evening Prayer and hear a message from another seminary student.

A Noisy Offering is coming! Bring your spare change on December 18th to the 10:30am service. The children are going to help collect this special offering to benefit the LOL Food Pantry. Let's fill their buckets!

Longest Night Service

Join us next Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7:15pm for the Longest Night Service.

This Week at Lord of Life

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Today | 8:00 AM | Worship in-person or online |
| | 9:15 AM | Cross-Generational Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship in-person or online |
| Tuesday, December 13 | 6:30 PM | Council Meeting |
| Wednesday, December 14 | 6:00 PM | Confirmation |
| | 7:15 PM | Advent Worship in-person or online |
| Thursday, December 15 | 11:30 AM | Senior Lunch: Caroline's |

Christmas Food Basket hams are due today for the Food Pantry baskets. Thank you for your generosity!

Belated Congratulations...

to Kalli and Eric Jahnke who were married November 26 at Lord of Life!

Poinsettias

If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia for the Sanctuary this Christmas, envelopes are available by the coffee bar in the Narthex. Cost is \$10 each.

Staff Gift

You are invited to express appreciation to our paid staff through a monetary gift. Please note "staff gift" on the envelope or check and submit by December 16.

Thank you! Susan Hansen

Christmas Eve

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday. Services will be at **4:00 & 6:00pm**.

Christmas Morning

This year Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We will have one service at **10:00am**. This service is unique to Christmas Day and takes the place of our normal Sunday services. It's a beautiful way to enter into the day.

Prayer List

Earl & Angie Alexander
Pastor Paul & Lorice Amlin
Kevin & Denise Anderson
Sandy Arp

Mike & Sue Asche
Donald & Kayleen Backhaus
Jordan & Amanda Backstrom and
family

Servants:

Sunday December 11

| | Tech | Assisting | Reader | Ushers |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 8:00 AM | Jon/Rita | | Susan Hansen | Deavers |
| 10:30 AM | Nate Frambach | Joan Cram | Gloria Klinefelter | Val Kennedy |

Sunday December 18

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| 8:00 AM | Susan Hansen | Sandy Arp | |
| 10:30 AM | | Luke Boyle | Phil G. |

Acknowledgments

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress sb135015. Liturgies Annual License. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
2899 Hales Mill Road
Dubuque, IA 52002
(563) 582-7371
lordoflife.online

Lord of Life Lutheran Guest Wireless
Password: Lutheran

Pastor
Rev. Paul Amlin
pastor@lordoflifedbq.org

Administrative Assistant
Rita Dienst
office@lordoflifedbq.org

Musician
Jill Klinebriel
jill@lordoflifedbq.org

NOW Worship Leader
Bri Ensign
bri.ensign@gmail.com

Choir Director
Susan Hansen

Faith Formation Coordinator
Maria Troftgruben
faithformation@lordoflifedbq.org

Administrative Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

