



**Lord of Life**  
Lutheran Church



# CLOSE to HOME

*You matter to God.*

*You matter to us.*

**Advent 2**

**December 5, 2021, 8:00 AM**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**  
Service of the Word

**GATHERING**

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

**Prelude: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

**arr. Marilyn Thompson**

**Call to Worship**

If life was a home, then we would pray—

**may love be the foundation.**

**May God be the cornerstone.**

**May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And may hope be the walls—holding us together.**

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

**We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.**

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

**Candle Lighting Liturgy**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy God,

**When John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it.**

**We forget that in the beginning we were made good.**

**We doubt that we could possibly be enough.**

**We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise.**

**We hide behind shiny first impressions.**

**Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job.**

**Open our ears as you open our hearts,**

**so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us.**

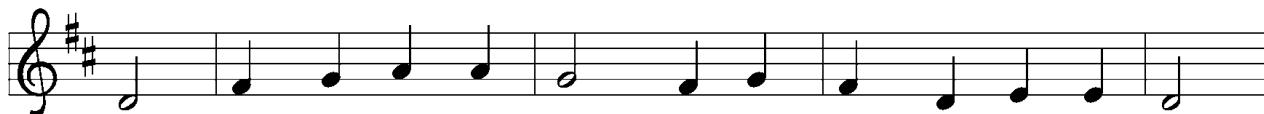
**Gratefully we pray, amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

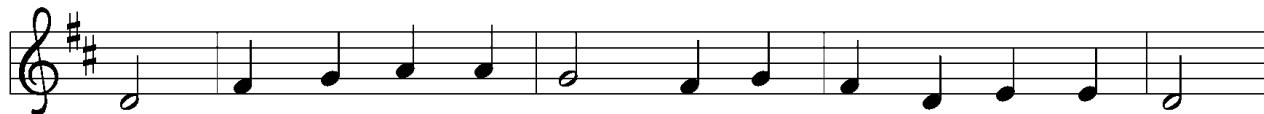
Family of faith, No matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: "You are loved; you are forgiven." That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news: **We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Gathering Song: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW 241



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
4 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!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

## 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.**

## Kyrie (Verses 1 and 2)

Vocals

1. For - give us, Lord, for times when hope was lost, and  
2. For - give us, Lord, for times when peace was lost, and  
3. For - give us, Lord, for times when joy was lost, and  
4. For - give us, Lord, for times when love was lost, and

4

mo - ments when we ne - ver thought to trust, for times when we des -  
mo - ments when we ne - ver thought to love, for times when we opp -  
mo - ments when we ne - ver thought to laugh, for times when we ob -  
mo - ments when we ne - ver thought to care, for times when we de -

8

pair ress and for off - get that you fight are where all joy and truth have the  
sess and des and sub - pair, and the Word for for things which your kill in love and to  
stroy and and end. For - give, for - give, for - give, for - give, us all our  
12

met. end. care. you. For - give, for - give, for - give, for - give, us all our  
For - give, for - give, for - give, for - give, us all our  
For - give, for - give, for - give, for - give, us all our

16

sins sins sins sins and help us hope and trust you with - out end.  
and help us be in peace with all our kin.  
and help us live in joy that ne - ver ends.  
and help us love so new - ness can be - gin.

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## Canticle of Praise

p. 158



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm Luke 1:68-79**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (*Lk. 1:78*)

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
    you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,**  
**born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,**  
**and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God’s people knowledge of salvation**  
**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,**  
**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

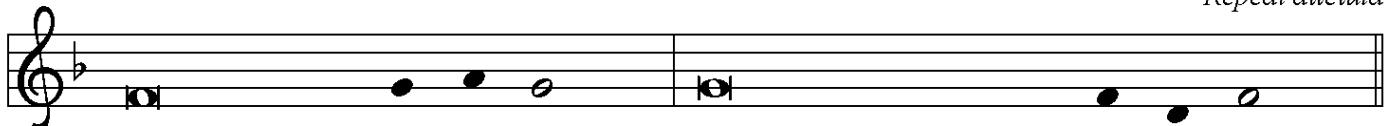
### Gospel Acclamation

p. 160



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: Luke 3:1-6**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

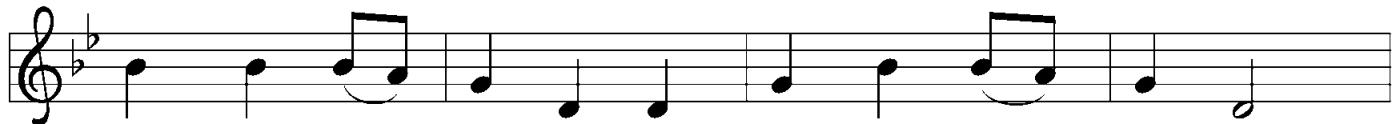
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

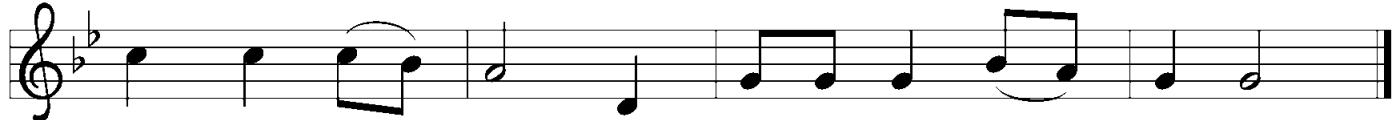
## **Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247



*O - so - sō o - so - sō, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gūm*  
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sō.*  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

## 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

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

...in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Offering: Create in Me a Clean Heart

The musical notation consists of six staves of music in common time, G major, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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.**

## 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

p. 162

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a G clef, the second with an F clef, and the third with a C clef. All staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C'). The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r 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.

## 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**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

### **Communion**

#### **Lamb of God**

p. 164

The musical notation consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below each staff, corresponding to the notes. The lyrics are:

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

### **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

As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace. **Amen.**

#### Sending Song: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Postlude: Blessed Be the God of Israel

**arr. Ellen Coman**

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ELW 254 Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

## 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

### Upcoming Events (More details below)

<b>**TODAY**</b>	<b>Learn about Grief with Oehlert</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b>
<b>**TODAY**</b>	<b>Worship in-person or online</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Wednesday, December 8	Confirmation	6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 8	Advent Choir Rehearsal	6:15 PM
Wednesday, December 8	Advent Midweek Service	7:15 PM
Sunday, December 12	Worship in-person or online	8:00 AM
	Cross-generational Sunday School	9:15 AM
	Worship in-person or online	10:30 AM
	Christmas Caroling (6 <sup>th</sup> grade +)	3:00 PM

**Devotions for Advent** We now have our Advent Devotional Booklet ready. To get your electronic copy, visit our website: [lordoflife.online/devotionals](http://lordoflife.online/devotionals) today! We will also make a limited number of print copies available at church.

### Christmas Caroling (6<sup>th</sup> grade +):

Come join us for Christmas caroling on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Confirmation students are encouraged to invite their mentors as well. We will spread some Christmas cheer to the neighborhood and then return to church to decorate some cookies. Cookies will be provided. Interested in donating frosting or decorations, please talk to Maria.

### Care in our Community: Call for Action

3-5 lb. hams are needed to help fill Christmas baskets for the Dubuque Food Pantry. Please sign up in the church narthex if you wish to donate a ham. Place your ham in the upper-level refrigerator on or before December 12. Thank you for making Christmas dinner a little brighter for some of our neighbors in need.

## **City of Dubuque Volunteer Opportunities**

The City of Dubuque has a new website where you can look for opportunities to provide Care in our Community! Practicing our faith in daily life is a great way to grow in our understanding of God. Visit <https://www.volunteerdbq.com/> to learn more.

## **Lord of Life Youth and All Ages Hockey Game Outing**

All young people, their family members, and all others are invited to a Lord of Life Lutheran hockey game outing on January 2nd, at 3:05 PM to watch the Dubuque Fighting Saints host the Cedar Rapids Roughriders for a promotional Faith & Family afternoon game. Tickets \$15. Please RSVP by December 15<sup>th</sup> to Maria Troftgruben ([maria\\_troftgruben@hotmail.com](mailto:maria_troftgruben@hotmail.com)) to ensure a spot.

## **Monday Night Bible Study**

Let's read the Gospel of Luke together! Advent begins a new church year and with that new beginning we also change which gospel our gospel readings come from. Intern Lucy will guide a reading of Luke with some stops to study along the way. Due to the recent high spike of COVID cases in the Dubuque area we will host bible study on Zoom only. Join us on Monday's at 7:00 PM. The Zoom link can be found on the Lord of Life website on the Online Bible Study page. See you there!

## **Choir Rehearsals for Advent**

Come one, come all! If you like to sing, you are welcome to join the choir for an Advent piece. Rehearsal is Dec 8 at 6:15 PM. We will sing on Dec 12 (we'll mutually decide on which service).

## **Care in our Congregation: Become a Worship Servant Today!**

If you are interested in being a worship servant for our, please visit <https://signup.zone/lord-of-life> to sign up for available dates.

## **Prayer List**

Tina Felderman

Phyllis Fishnick

Rev. Nate & Diane Frambach and family

Lois Freiburger

Pat Friedman

Nancy Fuchs

Sally Fuller

Stephen Geisert

James & Bernita Gilbertson

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**Administrative Assistant**  
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**Musician**  
Laura Bee

**NOW Worship Leader**  
Bri Ensign

**Choir Director**  
Susan Hansen

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

