



Lord of Life
Lutheran Church



CLOSE to Home

You matter to God.

You matter to us.

Advent 2

December 5, 2021, 10:30 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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

...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: Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 364



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



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

Greeting

p. 184

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

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle of Praise

**Glory to God in the highest, 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, 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, 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. Amen. Amen.

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

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then 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.**

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.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having 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

Word of God speak

Would You pour down like rain

Washing my eyes to see Your majesty

To be still and know That You're in this place

Please let me stay and rest, in Your holiness

Word of God speak (Repeat)

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.

¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.

⁵Every 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;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

...Gratefully we pray. **Amen.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Purify

Purify our hearts with truth,
And guide them in Your way.
Sanctify our lives anew;
Have mercy, Lord, we pray,
That we may do what's
pleasing in Your sight,
and know the fullness
of your sacrifice.

all You've done for us.
You have set us free,
Oh, the mystery
of all You've done,
All You've done for us.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.
Oh, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.

We break this bread,
We drink this wine
Remembering in the cross.
The beauty of Your love divine
is washing over us,
that we may do what's
pleasing in your sight,
and know the fullness
of your sacrifice.

Lord we come to you,
we're amazed by You
and all You've done,
all You've done for us.
You have set us free,
Oh, the mystery
of all You've done,
All You've done for us.

We break this bread,
We drink this wine,
Remembering the cross.

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: Sanctuary

Lord prepare me

To be a sanctuary

Pure and holy

Tried and true

With thanksgiving

I'll be a living

Sanctuary for You

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.

Preparing for the Table

...and that Jesus is here.

So if we come to this table angry,

Let this bread and wine be our peace.

If we come to this table broken,

Let this bread and wine be our grace.

If we come to this table betrayed,

Let this bread and wine be our wholeness.

If we come to this table in despair,
Let this bread and wine be our life.
For this is a holy table, with food to fill the hungry world and wine to quench thirsty hearts. **Thanks be to God!**

Words of Institution

When Jesus ate with his friends,
He took bread, and after blessing it,
He broke it and gave it to them saying:
**“Take, eat; this is my body given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.”**

Then he took the cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:

**“Drink. This cup poured out for you and for all people is the promise of God.
Whenever you drink it, remember me.”**

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope and our life. We break bread and share the one cup.

Thanks be to God!

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,
and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Distribution Song: Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, G major (one sharp), common time. It features a melody line with quarter notes and rests, ending with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a repeat sign. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." are written below the notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef, C major, common time. It provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, G major (one sharp), common time. It features a melody line with quarter notes and rests, ending with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a repeat sign. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" are written below the notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef, C major, common time. It provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, 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:

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: Refiner's Fire

Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold
And precious as silver.

Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold,
Pure gold.

Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Ceanse me from my sin,
Deep within.

Refiner's fire:
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You Lord.
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for you, my Master;
Ready to do Your will.

Refiner's fire:
My heart's one desire is
To be holy,
Set apart for You Lord.
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for you, my Master;
Ready to do Your will.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Refiner's Fire

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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)

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 th 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 today! We will also make a limited number of print copies available at church.

Christmas Caroling (6th grade +):

Come join us for Christmas caroling on December 12th 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 15th to Maria Troftgruben (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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NOW Worship Leader
Bri Ensign

Choir Director
Susan Hansen

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

