

Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’

contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

A word of welcome to all: Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church. You are welcome to share in Holy Communion. All who trust that Christ’s body and blood are present in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Worshipping during the pandemic- Masks: are required in our building. We need to remain strong and wise to avoid out of control disease. **Less touch:** please pick up a service folder and communion packet at the entrance. Please place your offering in the plate in the entrance of the worship center. During the passing of the peace wave, smile with your eyes, send a greeting by texting to someone who is alone. **You may sing.** Thanks be to God. **Physical Distancing:** It is still important to be aware of distancing. Please leave a pew in between the person in front of you and behind you when sitting in on outside of the worship area. Pews in the center are arranged normally. Choose whichever option makes you more comfortable. **Hand washing** is still very important. Feel free to use the bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the building.

For those worshipping from home: Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You will need your communion packet, this service folder, and if your phone is convenient you can use it to pass the peace. Lighting a candle hallows your worship place. We distribute packets of pre-consecrated bread and wine (gluten free option is available) for those who call the church office. We are here for you!

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

The assembly stands as they are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Vs. 1, 2,4

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

embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Refrain

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

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,

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 – Come Now, O Prince of Peace Vs. 1,2,3 (sung)

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The assembly sits.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way
for the kingdom of heaven is near.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the shadows
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Light one candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish shadows.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

The assembly stands as they are able for the reading of the gospel.

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are able.

THE NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

All are seated.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. God, in your mercy,

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. God, in your mercy,

Your mercy is great.

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. God, in your mercy,

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. God, in your mercy,

Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. God, in your mercy, **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. God, in your mercy,

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “Peace be with you.” If you have your phone available text a word of peace to someone who is worshipping alone.

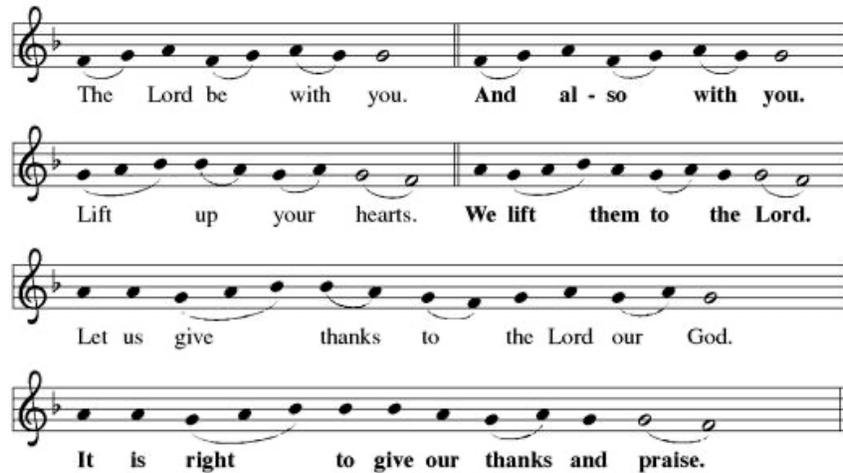
OFFERING AND PRAYER

The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are able.



PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

...join their unending hymn

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*sung*)

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

If in the depths of your spirit you are crying out, “Come, O Lord Jesus;”
This table has been laid out for you.
For those who desire to be set free;
The table of the Lord has a place for you.
If your heart aches to be released from fear and sin,
Receive the bread of Heaven and the cup of Salvation.
Those who find their rest in Jesus Christ,
All are welcome here,
The feast of communion is prepared for you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

All are seated .As we sing Lamb of God, please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you are the bread of life for us all, have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

Healing

Introduction

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer and the laying on of hands. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Laying On of Hands

Siblings in Christ, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Those in Need of Healing Come Forward

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken; deliver them from the power of evil; and preserve them in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

**² Your help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

**³ God will not let your foot be moved;
God who keeps you will not slumber.**

**⁴ God who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**⁵ The Lord is my keeper;
the Lord is my shade at my right hand.**

**⁶ The sun shall not strike me by day,
nor the moon by night.**

**⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
God will keep your life.**

⁸The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Let us pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

The assembly stands as they are able.

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 (+) give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn Vs. 1, 2,3

<p>1 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, the opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.</p>	<p>to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.</p>
<p>2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music</p>	<p>3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.</p>

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister Pr. Adam Dowd

Asst. Ministers Toni Blesy, Raymond Silhan III

Lectors Jonathon Silkaitis, Art Kardatzke

Organist Rosita Yao

Video Shiela Ruh, Sherry Sejnost

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

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Office Hours: M,T,TH,F from 9:30—2:30

Announcements – 11-28-21

Marilynn Sells donated the flowers today in memory of her mother, Lillian Grosse.

Lectionary Bible Study and Prayer. Join Pastor Adam for Bible study and prayer **Wednesday mornings** at Lord of Life from **10:00 to 11:00**. We will look at the upcoming lectionary reading for Sunday and close in prayer.

The LCW God's Work Our Hands Project for December is collecting donations for the Mt. Carmel Food Pantry. Gift cards are preferred, but food items are always appreciated. Don't forget pet items are also needed.

Decorating the Church for Christmas: The church will be decorated for Christmas on **Sunday, December 5 after the 11:00 service**. Come join us and help decorate the trees and church to celebrate the birth of Jesus followed by hot chocolate, light snacks, and warm fellowship.

Christmas Poinsettias – Order envelopes are on the table in the narthex. This year the plants are \$14.00 each. Please have your orders in to the church office **by Thursday, December 16th**.

ALL HAPPENING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9th: Hospitality Committee meets at 10:00 a.m. The Hymn Selection Committee meets at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Worship and Music Committee meeting at 12:30 p.m.

GAME NIGHT: Join us for fellowship, pizza and games on **Friday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the West Room.**

The Lunch Bunch meets on Tuesday, December 14th at 3 Corners at **11:30 a.m.** The restaurant is located at 7231 Lemont Rd. in Downers Grove. Please RSVP to Don Dibbern at (630) 323-1239.

The **Senior Spirits** meet again on **Thursday, December 16th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. A Christmas gift card exchange has been planned. Our regular pot luck lunch can resume --- so please bring your favorite dish to share.

Santa Lucia –With the limited number of people estimated to attend and the limited number of volunteers, the committee decided not to hold the Santa Lucia program this year.

We Love Your Photos! We need pictures and artwork for our daily Bible reading and prayers. Please share your photos with us at lordoflifechurchdarien@gmail.com

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	11/28	9:00 AM	In Person Worship (Live Streaming)
		10:00AM	Sunday school
		11:00 AM	In Person Worship
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship
Wednesday	12/1	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		11:00 AM	Holden Evening Prayer
		6:00 PM	Bible Study
		7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
		7:00 PM	AA
Thursday	12/2		BSA Troop #97
Friday	12/3	9:30 AM	Card Group
Saturday	12/4	9:45 AM	SDA
		3:00 PM	Ordination – Live Streaming in Fellowship
		Hall	
Sunday	12/5	9:00 AM	In Person Worship (Live Streaming)
		10:00AM	Sunday school
		11:00 AM	In Person Worship
		12:00 PM	Christmas Decorating
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.