



WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent

Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning
the way you feel comfortable.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Everybody Is Somebody Here

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God”

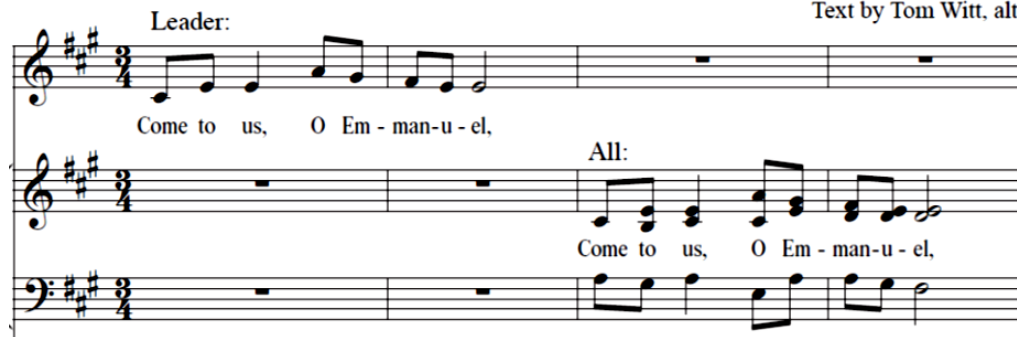
ELW #840

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We light one candle for one God,
The one who comes to us as a baby, swaddled and wailing.
We light one candle for one hope, one light, one salvation.
We light one candle to say YES to the invitation
to participate in the story of God's people.

SONG OF WAITING “Come to Us, O Emmanuel”

Text by Tom Witt, alt.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Love of God and Community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Let Us Pray

Lord God, **We have grown so jaded, that we hardly even look for the miracles anymore. Open our eyes, that we might see your good work in new ways, Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE WORD

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



GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when Zechariah was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW #631

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING

Messiah Lutheran Food Shelf

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” ELW #693

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

BLESSING

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Code below or donate to
the offering plate.



THE MEAL

God feeds us with the
forgiveness and presence
of Christ.

All are invited to receive
these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to
come forward and receive
communion or a blessing
and Goldfish Crackers.



THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

SENDING

POSTLUDE

**Special thanks to our musicians today:
Hadley Worm, Shelli Mann, Jeremy Mann,
Donovan Mann and Ann Mikiska**



In this time of chaos and uncertainty there are so many reasons to not say yes. Even the small yeses in our daily lives feel riskier somehow. Decisions about where we put our money, our time, our energy, our confidence, and our faith feel more important than ever during these volatile times. We come from a history of people who said yes. Throughout the story of the people of God, brave and faithful, everyday people said yes to God.

In Advent, these yeses are even more significant.

Join us this Advent and Christmas as we look at what does it take to get to yes? Why does it matter? Why does it matter that we believe this? The Nativity is a story that we tell, that isn't just on a page or in ancient tales, but one that lives in our bones, and calls to us to say our own yes when we are called into what God is doing now.

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Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musician

Ann Mikiska

Sound and Video

Jeremy Mann

*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

FamilyofChrist
FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Hearing Assistance devices are available at the soundboard
Radio frequency for hearing assistance on 73.9 MHz on the FM band