

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

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WELCOME

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from selfishness,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in your timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own mercy, favor, and love.

† You are forgiven and freed,
Saved and made whole by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**C: There is a candle in ev'ry soul
Some brightly burning some dark and cold
There is a spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home**

Litany

A: O God, At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

C: Wake us up to your coming.

A: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.

C: Wake us up to your coming.

A: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields.

C: Wake us up to your coming.

A: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and stir dormant hope within us.

C: Wake us up to your coming.

A: With the lighting of this candle, let us welcome Christ's Spirit whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Let us pray,

Light the first candle.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light

and to seek your ways of justice and peace,

for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes

and welcome him into our hearts and homes,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

**C: So carry your candle run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle and go light your world
Take your candle and go light your world**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Stir up your power, O Holy Spirit, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of service, for you live and breathe with God the Creator and Redeemer, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

A: A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the second chapter.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

A: A reading from the Book of Romans, the thirteenth chapter.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Christ Be Our Light ELW 715

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.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing

until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

MESSAGE

Please stand

HYMN

Arise, My Soul, Arise! ELW 827



Nyt y - lös, sie - lu - ni, nous' y - lös mul - last' täs - tä!

- 1 A - rise, my soul, a - rise! Stretch forth to things e - ter - nal
- 2 Now hear the harps of heav'n! Oh, hear the song vic - to - rious,



Käy jal - kain juu - reen Ju - ma - lan ja Ka - rit - san.
and has - ten to the feet of your re - deem - er God,
the nev - er - end - ing an - them sound - ing through the sky!



Ja vaikk' ei sil - mä - ni va - lo - a Her - ran kes - tä,
who, hid from mor - tal eyes, yet dwells in light su - per - nal;
To mor - tals is not giv'n to join in strains so glo - rious;



niin kui - ten - kin sä rie - mui - ten käy lau - la - maan.
so wor - ship God in hum - ble - ness, your sov - 'reign Lord.
yet here on earth we too can sing our prais - es high!



I - äi - seen i - loon ja juh - laan ja - loon
The ban - quet of love a - waits you a - bove;
Christ bought with his blood the ran - somed of God;
oot Ka - rit - san sä suu - riin häi - hin kut - sut - tu.
yet here you have a fore - taste of the feast to come!
to him be ev - er - last - ing pow'r and vic - to - ry.
Tai - va - han kun - ni - a on Her - ran ar - mos - ta
Re - joice, my soul, re - joice, to heav'n lift up your voice:
And let the great a - men re - sound through heav'n a - gain.
sun o - sa - si, sun pe - rin - tös ja ta - va - ras.
* Siis rie - muit - se ja a - jat - te - le au - tuut - tas.
1, 2 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**The Finnish stanza repeats the last line of music.*

THE PRAYERS

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence. After each intercession, the response is sung:

P and C: Peace on earth, peace on earth

Lord, hear our pray'r, your peace on earth

Peace on earth, peace on earth

Lord, hear our pray'r, your peace on earth

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, God-with-us Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your coming kingdom.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, death, and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to heal all the suffering world,
and embody your love fully.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth, life, death and resurrection,
we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

C: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the joy of your Son.
Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church,
both now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

C: 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

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share your promises,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Light of the World

The world waits for a miracle
The heart longs for a little bit of hope
O come O come Emmanuel
A child prays for peace on earth
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt
O come O come Emmanuel
And can you hear the angels singing

Glory to the Light of the world
Glory the Light of the world is here

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother
A baby's cry is the sound of love come down
Come down Emmanuel woh
He is the song for the suffering
He is Messiah the Prince of peace has come
He has come Emmanuel oh

Glory to the light of the world
Glory to the light of the world
Glory to the light of the world
Glory to the light of the world

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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