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**The audio for worship will be muted until
worship begins**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***Where do you experience Emmanuel, "God is with us,"
present today?***

December 21, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting Five

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Confession

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

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**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 self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our
neighbours.**

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

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Saviour.

Amen.

Gathering Song

***Saviour of the Nations, Come* – No. 263**

Vs. 1 Saviour of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

Vs. 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Vs. 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!

Vs. 4 From God's heart the Saviour speeds,
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.

Vs. 5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

Vs. 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Advent Song

He Came Down – No. 253

Vs. 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the
people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the
people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

Refrain: ***Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.***

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the
mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the
moon shall | be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of
Israel;**

you alone do | wondrous deeds!

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

A- | men. Amen.

Refrain: ***Let your face shine upon us, and we
shall be saved.***

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn of the Day

***No Wind at the Window* – No. 906**

Vs. 1 No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

Vs. 2 "O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favoured and filled with God's
grace. The time for redeeming the world has begun,
and you are requested to mother God's Son."

Vs. 3 This child must be born that the kingdom might come: salvation for many, destruction for some; both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine.

Vs. 4 No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed. Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, "Tell God I say yes."

The Apostle's 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 the People

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Peace Sharing

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering Song

Ave Maria - Bach/Gounod - solo

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Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our
thanks and praise.**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

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. Amen.

Communion Songs

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* – No. 254**

Vs. 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Vs. 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – No. 257

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

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

Vs. 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

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

Vs. 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: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Vs. 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

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

Vs. 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

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

***Deep Peace* – No. 1018**

Deep peace of the running waves,
deep peace of the flowing air,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth.

Sending Song
***Freedom Is Coming* – No. 903**

Vs. 1 (Oh, freedom,) Freedom is coming.

(oh, freedom,) Freedom is coming.

(oh, freedom.) Freedom is coming. Oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, freedom,) Freedom is coming.

(oh, freedom,) Freedom is coming.

(oh, freedom.) Freedom is coming. Oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, yes, I know.) Oh, oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, yes, I know.) Oh, oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, yes, I know.) Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, yes, I know.) Oh, oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, yes, I know.) Oh, oh, yes, I know.

(Oh, yes, I know.) Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.

Vs. 2 Oh, Jesus.

Jesus is coming.

Oh, yes, I know.

Dismissal... Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Ben Lukenchuk

Musician: Karen Johnson-Lefsrud

Kantor: Nathan McDonald

Choral Scholar: DJ McGrath

Livestream: Rebecca Wong

Communion: Marge Adams, Tarynn McKenzie

Ushers: Grant Froyland, Murray Nelson

You are invited to Christmas Eve worship:

***Wednesday, December 24 at 5 PM PT Candlelight &
Carols (livestream)***

7 PM - Holy Communion Worship with Carols (no livestream)

***Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 at 11 AM
(no livestream)***

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for the Crossroads newsletter, calendar and events.

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