DESERT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHARING · LOVING · SERVING

ADVENT 1
November 28/29, 2026
Sat 5PM/Sunday 9:30am Live Stream/Gilbert
Order of Worship



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.

ADVENT KYRIE:

Chorus:
Light of heaven, move among us,
Lord, have mercy.

Hear our crying, bring Your comfort,
Christ, have mercy.

Hope eternal, make our hearts new, fill us with your peace,
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Verse (Leader Only):
For the hearts that sleep in darkness,
and the ones who long for peace,
For our neighbors seeking comfort,
move us now to love and serve, we pray:

© Text & Music: Joni Van Rossum

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Candle of Hope

Reader: Today we light the first candle of our advent wreath, the candle of hope, and we pray, "Come now, blessed Jesus!" We are hopeful for a world awake and full of Jesus' love.

(Light Candle 1)

Reader: And all God's people say in hope:
ALL: Come now, blessed Jesus!

Transition right into gathering song as candle lighters return to seats.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (vs. 1, 2, 4)

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,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

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 to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: ELW 575 Jesus Loves Me! *(Sunday Tempe/Gilbert)*

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Sat 5pm Tempe: ***NO*** *Children's Message*
Sunday Tempe & Gilbert: *Sing at all services*

Refrain
Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

GILBERT SPECIAL MUSIC: Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding, Junior Choir

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:
Advent calls us to awake,
To see your love at work today.
Christ is coming, hearts prepare!
Open us to love and care;
O Word of life, we find you there.

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GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON:	
"Come Now" Pastor Steven Holm *(Sunday Tempe)*	*"Pulling Up a Chair"* Pastor Thaddeus Book *(Sat 5pm/Gilbert)*

SONG OF THE DAY: I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

Verse 1
Out of the depths I cry to You
In darkest places I will call
Incline Your ear to me anew
And hear my cry for mercy Lord

Verse 2
Were You to count my sinful ways
How could I come before Your throne
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze
I stand redeemed by grace alone

Chorus 1
I will wait for You I will wait for You
On Your word I will rely
I will wait for You surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied

Verse 3
So put Your hope in God alone
Take courage in His power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave

Verse 4
Now He has come to make a way
And God Himself has paid the price
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice

Chorus 2
I will wait for You I will wait for You
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for You surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matthew Merker, Stuart Townend
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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 power of 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:
In hopeful expectation we pray for the church, the world, and all people in need:

God of grace,
Come to your Church as Lord and judge. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Our Lord, come!
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. Usher in the peace that passes understanding. Our Lord, come!
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. Break into our lives where we struggle with sickness and distress and set us free to serve you forever. Our Lord, come!
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death. Our Lord, come!
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your coming, raise us to share in the hope of your kingdom on earth as in heaven.
Amen.

PEACE:
May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We share a word of peace with our neighbors.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for ELCA World Hunger.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel

ADVENT OFFERING SONG: Come Light Our Hearts

Refrain
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You

Verse 1
O Lord of life our only hope
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come come light our hearts

Verse 2
Oh joy above all other loves
In You we find more than enough
We come as we are O heal and restore
Come light our hearts

Sandra McCracken
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OFFERING PRAYER:

Mighty and faithful God,
Your power brings hope from despair.
As we bring our offerings, we trust in your enduring promises,
believing that you will use these gifts to reveal your presence with us
and to fulfill your purposes in the world.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:
Leader: We come before God, confessing our need for the One who brings true hope.

(Silence for reflection)

Gracious God,
We confess that we are often complacent when we are called to actively seek you. Our souls are sleeping when you have called us to pray. Awaken us, Holy Spirit! Amen.

FORGIVENESS:
Christ is with us! Your sins are forgiven through the amazing grace + of God who never sleeps, continually pouring out unconditional love for us all.
May God renew our hearts with hope during this Advent season.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING:
Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.

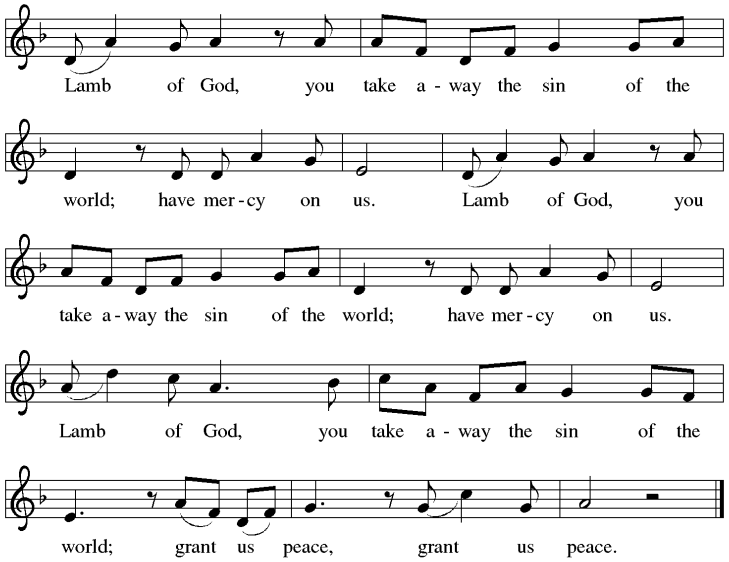
INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.
All are welcome.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p. 201 *(Tempe Only)*



DISTRIBUTION SONGS: ELW 490 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way;
as the Light of light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt.

ELW 487 What Feast of Love

1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

3 What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Gracious God, as we gather at your table,
we give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence in bread and wine.
Awaken our hearts to watch and wait for his coming.
Empower us to carry his light into the world now.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION:

May the God of hope bless you and keep you,
may the Spirit go before you, +
and give you eyes to see Christ among us today.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light (vs. 1-3, 5)

1 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.

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

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
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DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission. Here are the ways you can donate today:		
ONLINE GIVING: Get your smart phone and scan the QR-code with your phone camera	**SECURE TEXT GIVING:** Text "GIVE" to 833-636-1502	**USPS:** 8600 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85284

Flower Donation:

The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given by Carol Carrier in loving memory of her husband, Gene Carrier.

The carnation on the altar is in loving memory of Bradly White, beloved son of Robert and Marie White.