

Welcome to Worship at Adoration!

If you're visiting with us or new to our congregation, please sign the welcome book at the entrance to the church. Please introduce yourself to someone! We'd love to share more about our faith community with you.

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Welcome back, Pastor Kelly Taylor-Schaus!
We are blessed to have you here!

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Introduction

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Worship with Holy Communion

December 11th, Third Sunday in Advent

Today's worship service uses *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* the cranberry red hymnal in your pew.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Chimes

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the Lord, † the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch, a living sign.

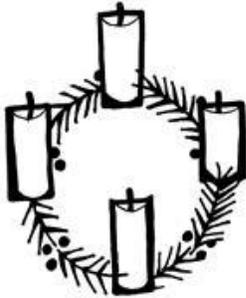
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

*Children are invited forward
for an age-specific message
focused on the day's reading
and the lesson.*



Children's Time

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10

Pastor: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."
(Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV).

Congregation: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Pastor: The Psalmist says "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 146 NRSV)

Congregation: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

Light three candles on the Advent wreath.

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

**Candle Song: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
ELW #240 Verse 1, 2 & 3**

Blessing

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: *Messiah*

- 1. Someone's shouting from the desert.
Someone's shouting from the sea.
Someone's shouting from the mountain.
Someone's shouting from the valley.**

***Chorus: Messiah, Come and be our King.
Messiah, Come and be our King.***

- 2. Someone's shouting from the city. I am young, I am cold.
Someone's shouting from the country.
I am lonely, I am old. *Chorus.***
- 3. Someone's shouting I am broken.
Someone's shouting make me whole.
Someone's shouting come and change me.
Someone's shouting save my soul. *Chorus.***



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.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only
Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance
and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

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

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.



First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)



In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.



Psalm 146: 5-10 (Read Responsively)

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
 whose hope is in the | Lord their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
 who keeps promis- | es forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those
 who hunger.
 The Lord sets the | captive free.
⁸**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those
 who | are bowed down;
 the Lord | loves the righteous.**
⁹The Lord cares | for the stranger;
 the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the
 way | of the wicked.
¹⁰**The Lord shall | reign forever,
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Listen, Shepherds, Listen* Chancel Choir

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

***He Came Down* ELW #253, Verse 3**



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.



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We pray for those in need:

The family of Ted & Mardy Lazaris;
 Dick Voegeli;
 Brother of Dick Voegeli;
 Betty Wing;
 Joani Bettin;
 Mary Anne Markiewicz;
 Wally Stasiewski, facing several health crises;
 Doug Hamilton (spouse of Lori Hamilton), newly diagnosed with brain cancer;
 Jerry (Bruce Crueger's brother);
 Angie Lange (Sue Clark's mother-in-law);
 Bob (friend of Bob & Connie Yersin);
 Karen (Sandy Ringwall's sister);
 Joy Braun (friend of Sue Clark);
 Amy & Family (friends of Kathy Wakefield);
 Jackie (niece of Jan Rinderle);
 Eric (brother of Crystal)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *All Earth is Hopeful* ELW #266

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Prayers of Intercession

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for strength and recovery for:

Tom Nowakowski;
Kathy and John Imp;
Marylee Dye;
Craig Beyler;
Ruth & Bob Bauer;
Pat Koch;
Dawn (friend of Sandy and Bob Young);
Pat (Cousin of Donna Babilus);
Janie Record (Pr. Delaney's aunt);
Tammy Patton (Pr. Delaney's aunt);
Bruce (friend of Joyce Weinert);
Jeff & Kelly Faltersack for a continued healthy pregnancy;
Doreen Timmerman, recovering from foot surgery

We keep in our prayers:

Jeanette and Tom Nowakowski, grieving the tragic loss of their great-niece, Olivia;
Bob & Sandy Young, grieving the death of their friend, Dale;
Melissa and Lincoln (daughter and grandson of Sue Szemborski), recovering from a car accident;
Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris);
Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law);
Susan (Darlene Witkowiak's daughter);
Jeremy (Tom Nowakowski's nephew);
Caroline (Jill Lindberg's daughter);
Shelby and the family of Taylor Daniels (friends of Crystal Januchowski)

We pray for the following with our siblings across the ELCA:

For rail workers and all struggling to make a just wage...
For those who are alone or grieving during this season...
For people, plants, and animals in the path of Mauna Loa and Mount Semeru's eruptions...
For the celebration of the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe...
For political turmoil and transition, especially in Peru...
For those without homes who face harsh climates and harsh local governments...
For those who are overworked and for those who are underemployed...
For an end to human trafficking and modern slavery...

***Lord, in your mercy,
Receive Our Prayer.***

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

As we await the coming of Christ, may the God of our salvation grant you peace and joy, hope and gladness. **And also with you.**

Please share signs of peace with those in your vicinity.

Today we give our tithes and offerings by bringing them forth as we come to receive Communion.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Preparation Prayer

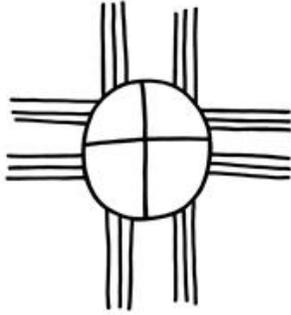
Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen**

**ON RECEIVING HOLY
COMMUNION**

You are invited to the Lord's Table by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, Adoration Lutheran Church practices "Open Communion," which means we do not restrict anyone from receiving this grace-filled gift of God. Jesus loves everyone and welcomes everyone to his table of grace and peace.



We come forward to share in Holy Communion today. You may choose to receive a wafer and a poured cup of wine or juice or a pre-sealed packet containing both a wafer and juice. Gluten-free wafers available by indicating your need to the server.

Consecrated Goldfish crackers are available for children.

All are welcome to come forth and receive a blessing.

Please place used cups in the baskets on the end of the front pews.

With Mary, again we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Epiklesis (Come, Holy Spirit)

Mighty God of mercy, as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us. Send your Spirit on this bread and wine, that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become his body in the world. Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Elizabeth, we might leap with joy in your presence.

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna, we tell others of your mercy.

Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Mary and the women at the tomb, we might be filled with hope and expectation.

With Mary, once more we magnify your name:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

All praise to you, powerful God of peace.

We adore you, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You mother and feed and comfort us, today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Remember us, O Christ, and teach us to pray:

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.

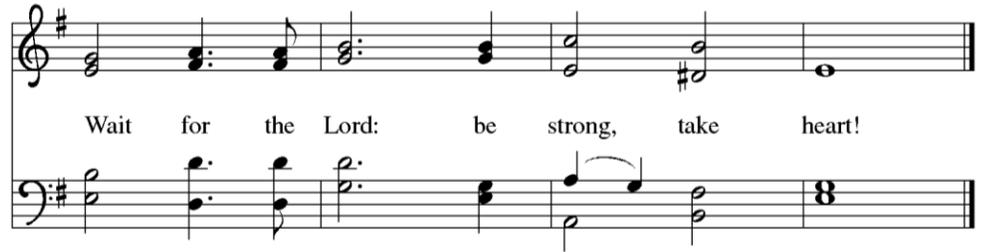
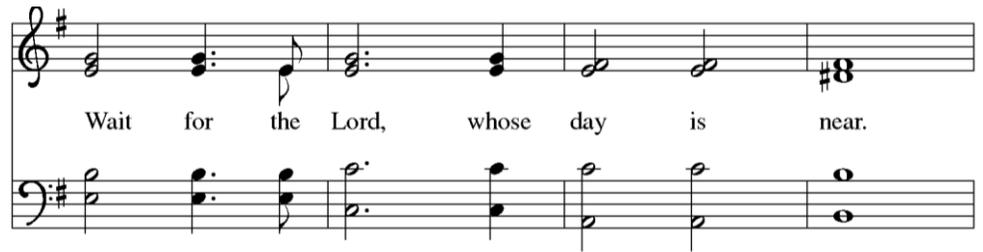
Invitation to Communion

Children of God: Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.



Invitation Hymn: *Wait for the Lord* ELW #262



Communion

Hymn During Communion *People, Look East*

ELW #248

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Post-Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us, and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**



Sending

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

Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: Kelly Schad

Communion Assistants:

Tom & Jeanette
Nowakowski and Sandy
Ringwall

Ushers: Deanna Posig and
Linda Kolar-Wood

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

Music & Worship

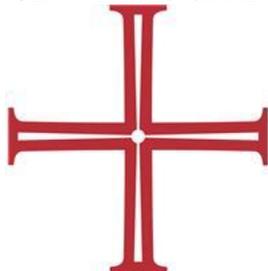
Coordinator:

Barb Regent

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Sending Hymn

ELW #257

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verses 5&6

Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



Adoration Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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* If you have a need that falls outside of these days/hours, please send an email or call the main number. *

