



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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Introduction

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Worship with Holy Communion

December 18th, Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

Prelude

Adoration Instrument Ensemble

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing 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.**

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



You may be seated.

Children's Time

Please join our young people in singing "Away in a Manger."

Sunday School Students sing verse 1,

Congregation joins in verses 2-3



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Isaiah 7 & Matthew 1)

Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said,

“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven” (7:11). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. “Therefore, the very Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel” (7:14).

God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves.

God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own.

God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

"Behold! Look! The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," God is with us.

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Mt. 1:23-25).

We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

Light all four candles of the Advent wreath.

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

**Candle Song: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
ELW #240 All Verses**

Blessing

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **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.*





An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

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*Let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

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

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Please be seated.

Word

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

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Read Responsively)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.



⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Special Music: "A Simple Stable" Chancel Choir

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 4



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;

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

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We pray for those in need:

Kerry Lindahl, and the family of Ted & Mardy Lazaris; Charlotte Linberry, recovering from surgery; 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); 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 (Crystal's brother)



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*
ELW #251

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God of our salvation, you speak through angels and prophets, telling us: "Be strong, do not fear! For I will come and save you." Remove obstacles to our faith, that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of Zechariah, you break into our fearful world with news of joy and gladness. Give light to all who sit in darkness, and guide our feet into the way of peace.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We continue to pray for strength and recovery for:

Betty Wing, grieving the death of her sister, Vivian;
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);
Bruce (friend of Joyce Weinert);
Jeff & Kelly Faltersack for a continued healthy pregnancy

We keep in our prayers:

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 all experiencing storms and extreme weather conditions...
For peace among the nations of the world...
For those in the retail and service industries this season...
For our Jewish siblings celebrating Hanukkah...
For the homecoming of Brittney Griner, and for health and justice for all prisoners and prisoners of war...
For victims of gun violence, especially in Mississippi, as well as families marking the 10 year anniversary of Sandy Hook...
For those in North Carolina still facing outages following a power grid attack...
For those enduring the longest night of the year in grief and loss...
For cleanup and mitigation efforts following landslides in California...
For the LGBTQ+ community in Russia and for all oppressed by new legislation...

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

God of Mary, you know the fears of your people.
Lift up the lowly, especially those who are sick, those who mourn, those who are hungry, and all in need of your care.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of Joseph, your message calls us to let go of our fears and place our trust in you.

Sustain us in your hope as we await our Savior's birth.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of all creation, you name us as your precious and chosen people and redeem us through Christ.

Take hold of our hearts and shine your love through our lives.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

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

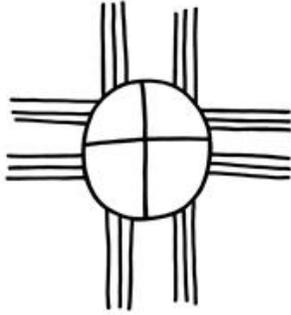
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

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

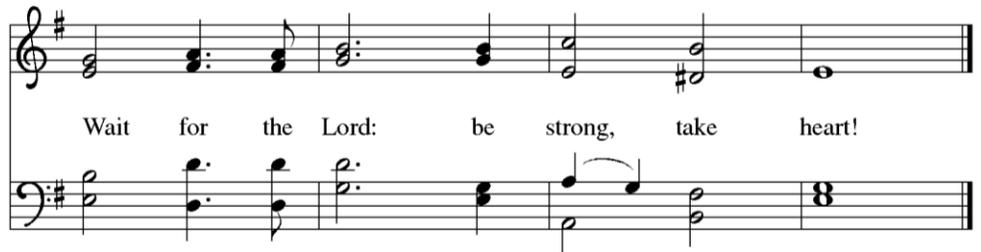
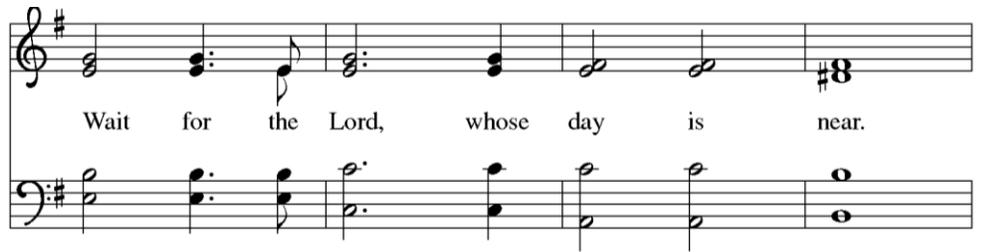
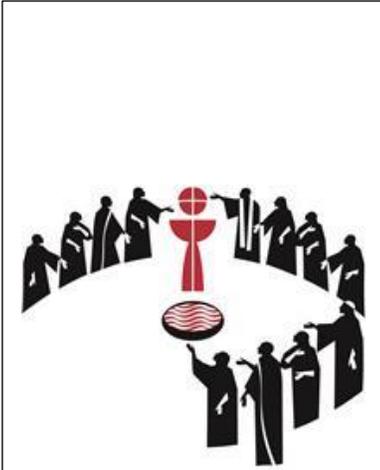
Please be seated.

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
(Repeat twice)



Communion

Hymn During Communion

What Feast of Love

ELW #487

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**

Sending Hymn

ELW #257

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verses 7&8



Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: Lori Wargolet

Communion Assistants:

Bob & Connie Yersin,
Tom & Jeanette
Nowakowski and Sandy
Ringwall

Ushers: Tom & Jeanette
Nowakowski

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

Music & Worship

Coordinator:

Barb Regent

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Dismissal

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

Postlude

Adoration Instrument Ensemble

Adoration Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

3840 West Edgerton Avenue - Greenfield, WI 53221

Phone: 414.281.0414 www.adorationlc.com

adorationlutheran@gmail.com

The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse, Pastor

Cell: (920) 484-8050 pastormattadoration@gmail.com

Barbara Regent, Worship Coordinator

Crystal A. Januchowski, Office Manager

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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

