



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

Second Midweek Advent Service

“God with us” Advent Series

December 10, 2025 7:00 p.m.

WEEK 2- OUR SHEPHERD



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN “Comfort, Comfort Ye My people”

---LSB #347

1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”

2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

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THE INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P In the second week of Advent we light the Candle of Peace. Today we remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ “the Prince of Peace.” The prophets told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

(An acolyte lights the first two blue candles.)

Jesus said: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). Christ comes as God with us to bring us peace in this life and the promise of everlasting peace. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him real peace is found. Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ. Let us pray: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets proclaimed your coming as bringing the gift of peace to your people. Coming Savior, give us peace in our hearts at Christmas. Remain present with us and help us today to hear your Word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with all. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Please join me in Confessing our sins:

C **Loving Father, who sent Jesus as Shepherd and Savior, we confess that our distracted doing has shrouded our Advent and turned us to follow our own way. Forgive us for shaping the celebration to fit our desires. Seize us by your Spirit. Focus our eyes and hearts on the coming Christ. Inspire us with Christ’s advent so that we shout from the housetops the Good News that in the coming Savior God is indeed with us. Make us into your joy-filled messengers, sharing your powerful message of salvation for all.**

P Jesus has promised that the sins we forgive on earth will also be forgiven in heaven. Trusting that precious promise, as a called and ordained minister of the Gospel, I confidently declare to you that, in Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven and you are privileged to share that same forgiveness with all the others in your life. We are filled with Jesus’ light of life so that we can shine among the people of this world like stars in the sky.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

P A voice cries out, “In the wilderness clear a way for the Lord;

C **make a way in the desert, a road for our God.**

P Every valley must be lifted up, and every mountain and hill leveled.

C **The rough places will become a level plain, the rugged land a wide valley.**

P The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it at the same time.

C **For the Lord has decreed it.”**

P “Go up on a high mountain, O herald Zion!

C **Shout out loudly, O herald Jerusalem! Shout, don’t be afraid!**

P Say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’”

C **“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.**

P And they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us).”

C **“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Jesus our gentle Shepherd, we seek to follow your leading through the pastures shaped by your grace and even through the dark wilderness of our own straying. Trusting in your promised care and forgiveness, we depend on your hand to guide us, your love to hold us, your presence to care for us and your promises to bless our steps into the future. Loving Shepherd, lead us. Powerful protector, guard us. Wise leader, go before us as we confidently commit ourselves to follow you now and into the future you have prepared for us. We pray it in your strong name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 2: 21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

THE SERMON "OUR SHEPHERD"

Rev. Marty Marks

THE PRAYERS

P Lord, we have seen the sun go on its annual trek into the southern sky and watched the days shorten. The darkness closes in and we long for the light. Send us your light, Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Loving Lord, we are lulled into early sleep, and we hide ourselves in the darkness. Like lost sheep, we grope along our spiritual path and wander in the gloom. The darkness calls on us to sit idle and close our eyes to our darkening world. In this bleak time of spiritual sleep, stir us Lord. Wake us with your light. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Stir us up with a new vision of what your Spirit loose in our life and in our world can do through us. Set us on fire with your Word and with the light of your presence so that we are consumed with a passion for telling, proclaiming, sharing, giving away the Good News of the coming of the Savior of the world. Make us indeed the “light of the world” as we were called by Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Renew us as lights that carry the light, that live the light, that show the light of that good gift that you send us once again this Christmas. Fill us with your presence so that we can hear and answer your calling that they may see our good works and glorify you. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Send us as your light bearers to those who still sit in darkness, struggle with the crush of poverty, need, illness, grief or depression. We name before you in our hearts those who we know are in special need of your healing and strength. Help us share your presence and power. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Stir us with the joy and peace and hope that you send in the Baby that came to Bethlehem. Stir up our expectation for the wonder he will create as our Shepherd in the world, in our lives, in our homes, in our hearts. In the strong name of the Good Shepherd, coming into the world, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

♪ CLOSING HYMN: “HARK THE GLAD SOUND ”

--LSB #349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To _enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

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THE BENEDICTION

THE OFFERING (AT THE DOOR)

TONIGHT’S PARTICIPANTS

♦ LITURGIST: REV. MARTY MARKS

♦ ORGANIST: LINDA CONRAD

♦ PIANIST/VOCALIST: C-J MOTISI