The Season of Advent

Unexpected



November 29, 2026 | 10:00am

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please add your information on the clipboard located at the ***Information Center*** *kiosk. You may add as much information as you'd like to share. We look forward to getting to know you!*

Trusting God + Loving the World

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Restore us, O God;
Let your face shine upon us, and we, shall be saved.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Let your face shine upon us, and we, shall be saved.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin, and turn back toward God's love.

Pause for silence and reflection.



Comforting God,
we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins,
like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen.

Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel ELW 257 vs. 1,2,7

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.

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*

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come.
By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Scripture Reading

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Invitation to the Word

ELW 262

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you. O Lord.**

[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."

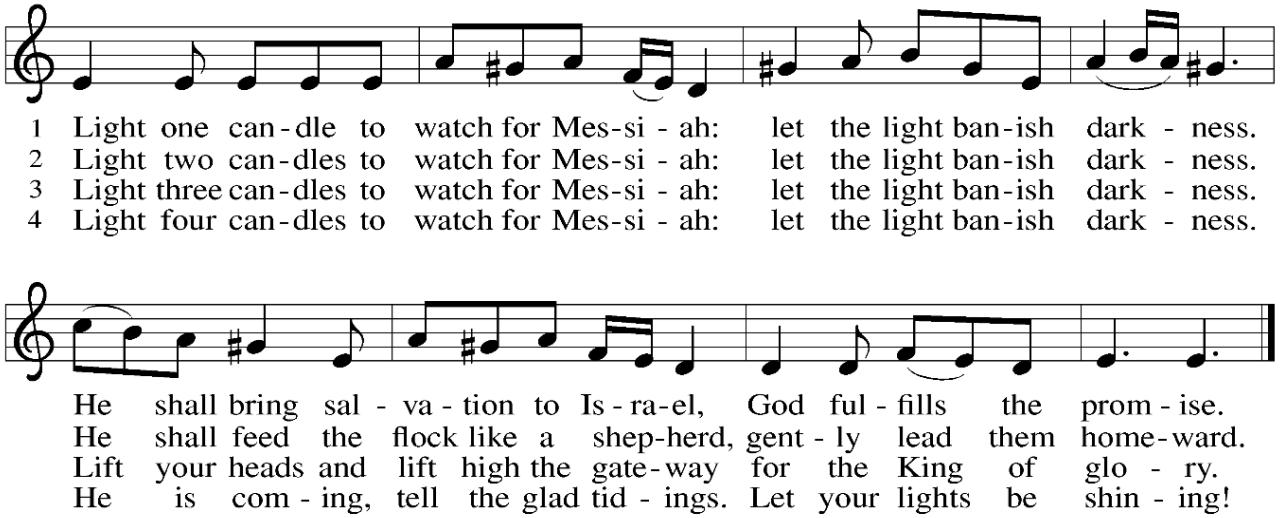
The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Lighting of the Advent Candle/Children's Time



Verse one





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 light this candle to 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.



Children's Church

Children age 3yrs – 4th grade.
After children's message, meet the leader in the back of the sanctuary.



Message

Song

Unexpected and Mysterious ELW 258

Unexpected and mysterious, is the gentle word of grace.
Everloving and sustaining, is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage, and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us, as a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting, of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry, both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy,
and she ran to greet the woman, who would recognize her boy.

We are called to ponder myst'ry, and await the coming Christ,
to embody God's compassion, for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing, to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder, for the promised Savior's birth.

Proclamation of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

God – who created the light and separated it from the darkness
- **I Believe**

Jesus – who is the light and shines in the darkness
Yet is not overcome by it
- **I Believe**

Spirit – who spreads the light into the darkness of our world
- **I Believe**

Prayers of the People

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

Prayer response:

God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace

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

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us, and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

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.

Invitation

The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.



+ All Are Welcome at the Table +

Options for receiving Holy Communion

Please come forward to the front and kneel or stand, starting at the center and filling in along the step. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and put your empty cup in the basket. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you at the rails with the words spoken:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor.

You are invited... To bring **offering** forward during Holy Communion or before or after worship
The offering is gathered in front of the communion table where we are reminded of
God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

Communion Songs

Wait for the Lord ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!
(Repeat, instrumental interlude, repeat again)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254

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.

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.

Prayer After Communion

Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

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

Blessing

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song

The King Shall Come ELW 260 vs. 1-3, 5

**The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun, that lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn, when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.**

Sending

Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Worship Leadership

Pastors ..... Julie Brooks, Kim Gonia
Pianist/Organist ..... Chris Johnson
Reader ..... Sue Scott
Communion Assistants ..... Gaylene Szaltzer Gail Walkowich
Greeters ..... Dianne & Jeff Watts
Ushers .... Bob Mohrbacher
Altar Guild .....Judy Ekberg
Children's Church ..... Children's Church Team
Worship Technology ..... Mike Madsen, Mark Lee

+ WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

THANK YOU for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers & wheelchairs.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side. You can also download the app WaveCast Receiver which is designed for hearing aids with Bluetooth capability. See our sound engineer Mark, in the sound booth if you have any questions. *(Back of the sanctuary, SE corner).*

CANDLE STATION is available for candle-lighting. *(In the back of the sanctuary).*

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (FELLOWSHIP)

After worship, you are invited to get to know one another for the first – or 100th time, in the narthex (behind the sanctuary) or in the fellowship hall with coffee and snacks.

OFFERING

Your financial gifts support Holy Shepherd and its vision to nurture trusting relationships with God and with one another, along with its vision to engage in generous activities that serve to love the world as Jesus has shown us. Cash, or checks made out to Holy Shepherd, can be placed in the front bowl by the front pews on your way to communion. (Envelopes are available in your pews if you'd like.) You can also scan the QR code to the left and give through Tithely. *Thank you for your generosity.*

KIDS

Kids Zone (un- staffed) is available your family to use if you need a place to step out with kids during the service. It is located off the hallway west of the sanctuary and has a television available for watching the worship live-stream.

Kid busy bags are located in the narthex (outside the sanctuary) and contain kid friendly items for families to take into worship. Please return to the stand after worship.

Children's Church is offered after the kids, typically 3 years old to 4th grade, come up for *Children's Time* with the pastor. This optional activity is during the pastor's message and is led by an adult. It is located in the room just through the nursery off the west hallway of the sanctuary.

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