



ADVENT

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Third Sunday in Advent
Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | *Jordan, Minnesota*

December 14, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service, we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

TODAY’S THEME

The Messiah is an important person. “Messiah” is the same word as “Christ” or “Anointed One.” He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent! The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent “Gaudete,” which mean “Rejoice!” As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus.

CLOSE COMMUNION

Following the guidance of Scripture, we invite those who are members of this congregation or one of our sister WELS congregations to join us as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning. Those who are members of other church bodies are asked to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. With this practice, it is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God’s Word. Thank you for respecting our practice regarding the Lord’s Supper.

Pastor.....Jeremy Glowicki
Organist.....Noah Helke

322 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CW 322

Stand

Advent Gathering Rite

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Psalms 24:7,8

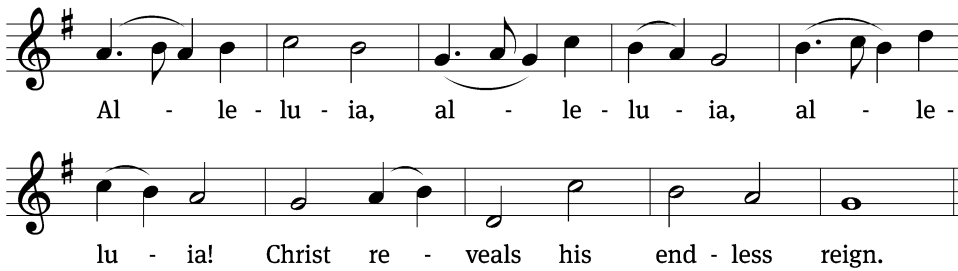
Introduction to the hymn

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487 st. 1

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
swell the tri - umph of his train:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the first line of the hymn.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799
Text and tune: Public domain

“Surely the day is coming;
it will burn like a furnace.

All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble,
and that day that is coming will set them on fire . . .

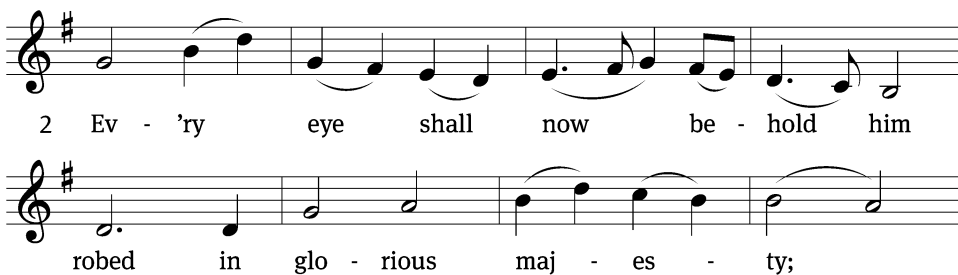
But for you who revere my name,
the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays . . .

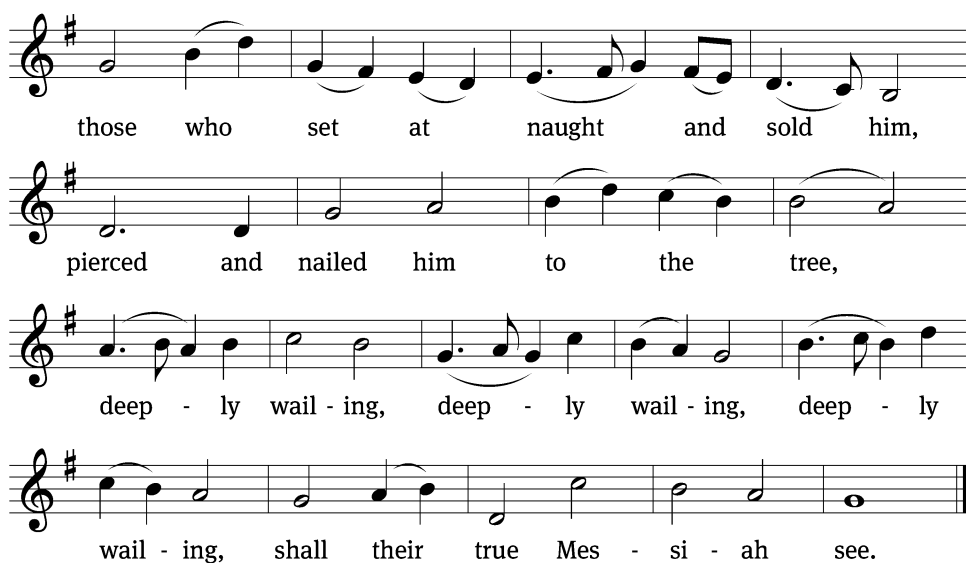
Then you will trample down the wicked;
they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.

selections from Malachi 4:1-3

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487 st. 2





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799
Text and tune: Public domain

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Psalms 24:3,4a

But it is written: “All have turned away, they have together become worthless;

There is no one who does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:12

Therefore, let us confess our sins.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487 st. 3

3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Text and tune: Public domain

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, in the name of Christ Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487 st. 4

4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,
claim the king - dom as thine own.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a '4' indicating a four-measure rest. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, some beamed together. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799
Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.

The wilderness and the desert will be glad. The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus. It will bloom lavishly, and there will be great joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it. It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make the shaky knees steady. Tell those who have a fearful heart: Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance. With God's own retribution, he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged. The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay. A highway will be there, a road that will be called the holy way. The impure will not walk there. It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but only the redeemed will walk there. Then those ransomed by

the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with a joyful shout, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Happiness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

146A I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

Psalms 146A

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.

Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



I will send my messenger a - head of you,



who will prepare your way be - fore you.

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Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.

While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?” Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.” As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Be seated

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

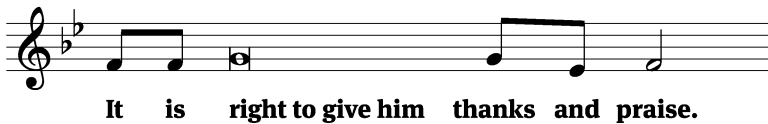
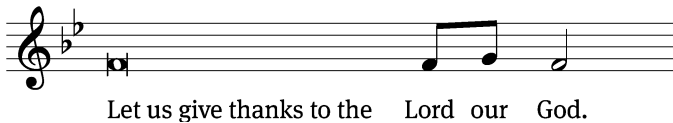
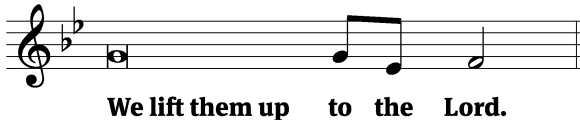
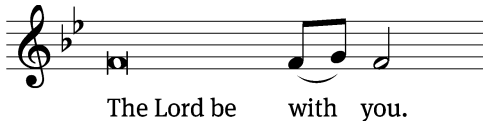
During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 183



Tune: Marty Haugen

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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains an instrumental introduction. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!' The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.**

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The lyrics are distributed across the following staves: Staff 2: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the'; Staff 3: 'sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.'; Staff 4: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the'; Staff 5: 'sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.'; Staff 6: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the'; Staff 7: 'sin of the world; grant us your peace.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Be seated

Distribution

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Acknowledgments

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December 21

Children's Christmas Service — 9am

December 24

7 Lessons & Carols Candlelight — 6:30 pm

December 25

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord — 9 am

News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Radio Broadcast Signup for 2026

The new Radio Broadcast signup is in the binder on the counter. We have heard from KCHK and the weekly cost will continue to be \$70 per broadcast.

Christmas Bags

Woven has begun collecting donations to be used for the Christmas Bags for the kids, you can place your gift in the marked plexiglass box on the counter near the Fellowship Hall.

Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

We are grateful for our congregation's participation in the program. We drive three months a year and as our crew ages a bit, we are looking for new drivers. Drivers pick up food at the Schule Haus on 4th St. near church and deliver for around an hour depending on the route. Please call the church office if you are interested in helping.

Offering Envelopes

Envelope books for 2026 have been placed on the table in the gathering area. As a reminder, please do not start using the new envelopes until January 1st.

Practice for Children's Christmas Service

The last practice for the Children's Christmas Service will be on Saturday, December 20th from 9 - 10:30 am.

Hallmark Christmas Movie Night

"A Cherry Pie Christmas" and Taco Bar is tonight at 5:30! Please check the sign-up sheet near the Fellowship Hall to see if there are any last minute items we still need.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is cancelled for December. The next meeting is January 8th tentatively. Notice that is not on our usual schedule of every third Thursday.



SERVING THE LORD

		Acolytes	Ushers	Media Booth	Organist
12/14	9 am	Leah Bertrang	3	Ryan Bertrang	Noah Helke
12/21	9 am	-	4	Cooper Kalal	Lois Zander
12/24	6:30 pm	Leah Bertrang	1	Ryan Bertrang	Noah Helke

December Altar Guild	December Cleaners
Jodi Bertrang/Amy Radick	-
December Counters	Fall Service Group Leader
Norma Bendzick/Connie Jabs	Dianne Jabs
January Altar Guild	
Angela Ambroz/Nancy Stocker/Brenda Stocker	

Attendance	
Sunday	87
Monday	11
Total	98

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$1275	\$3834
Online Giving	\$539	
Total	\$1814	\$3834



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