



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

December 21, 2025

11:00 am

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor

Wes Smith, Associate Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

**P** = Pastor

**A** = Assisting Minister

**L** = Lector [reader]

**C** = Congregation

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction.  
The prelude is the beginning of the worship service and is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.  
Please be respectful of the worshippers around you who are using this time for that purpose.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Please stand as you are able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Long-expected God,

**C** we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.

**We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,**

**that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

**P** God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C** Amen.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*A Flickering Candle*

**A flick'ring candle sheds its light In hope of dawn's victorious might,**

**And backward scurries cow'rdly night Reminded of the morning.**

**Watch, watch, for Christ is near, The promised Son of God most dear.**

**Hope, hope, His light will clear The shades of death and sin.**

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**L** During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.

**C** From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

**L** During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.

**C** From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

**L** During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.

**C** From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

**L** During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.

**C** From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

**L** During Advent we look to the One who knows our innermost being.

**C** From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Ⓔ Today we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. The **second candle** reminds us of our joy in proclaiming Christ as our Mighty God. The **third candle** grants us comfort knowing that Jesus is our Prince of Peace. We light the **fourth candle** to remind us that Jesus is our Everlasting Father. In a world of change, mobility and transition, we affirm that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Ⓔ Let us pray. Gracious Lord,

☩ **as we continue our Advent journey, we acknowledge that very little in our world stays the same. Thank you for being our Everlasting Father, who is eternally present with us. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**The dawn of God's redeeming grace Lit Bethlehem, that humble place;  
Now radiant beams from Jesus' face Illumine all creation.  
Watch, watch, for Christ is near, The promised Son of God most dear.  
Hope, hope, His light will clear The shades of death and sin.**

## 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.**

*You may be seated*

## READING

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

*see insert*

*Please stand as you are able*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Blessed Is the One*

*ACS Hymn 929*

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Text: Psalm 118:26

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 1:18-25*

*see insert*

*You may be seated*

## SERMON

Pastor Fritz

*Please stand as you are able*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*ELW Hymn 257, sts. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8*

***Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.***

*You may be seated*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*Cora Christine Jackson*

*Parents: Kenna & Cole Jackson*

*Sponsors: Ron & Linda Barkoot, Amy & Philip Jackson*

Ⓔ Do believe in God the Father?

☩ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Ⓔ Do believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

☩ **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Ⓔ Do believe in God the Holy Spirit?

☩ **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

- P** Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C** **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "God of grace," please respond, "Hear our prayer."*

*The prayers are ended with these words, "Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel." Please respond, "Amen."*

*Please stand as you are able*

## EXCHANGING THE PEACE

*We share a sign of God's peace.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*You may be seated*

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

**Link to give:** <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We now dedicate the financial gifts we offer to the Lord and the Lord's agenda, gifts either already given online, or before or after the service in the offering box. Likewise, we prayerfully consider the ways we offer ourselves to God's kingdom throughout the whole week.



**MUSICAL OFFERING** (11:00) *Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Thomas Keesecker*

*Sanctuary Choir*

*Please stand as you are able*

## OFFERTORY

*Come to Set Us Free*

**Come to set us free, come to make us your own.**

**Come to show the way to your people, your chosen.**

**Open our lives to the light of your promise.**

**Come to our hearts with healing, come to our minds with power, come to us and bring us your life.**

Text: Bernadette Farrell

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## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

—ELW Hymn 193

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** **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.**

*You may be seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles. You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine, or you may also choose a packaged cup with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer. Please indicate to the ushers if you need to have communion brought to you.*

**COMMUNION HYMN***Lamb of God**ELW Hymn 195***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.****COMMUNION HYMN***All Earth Is Hopeful**ELW Hymn 266*

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

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*Please stand as you are able***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

- P** Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
- C** Amen.

**BLESSING**

- P** May God who comes among us, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
- C** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**ELW Hymn 242****Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.*****SENDING**

- A** Go in peace. Keep awake. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE****Acknowledgements:**

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*Advent Wreath Lighting: (8:30) Lee family (11:00) Okoronkwo family**Altar Guild: Carol Talbott**Assisting Minister: (8:30) (11:00)*

*Communion Servers: (8:30) Jayne & Buddy Troy, Bill Grabill*  
*(11:00) Sue & Dave Byers, David Beecher*

*Lector: (8:30) Betty Schmidt (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton**Tech crew: (8:30) Davida Kilgore, Chris Gritti (11:00) Joni Siepert, Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Chris Gritti**Usher: (8:30) Jim Basinger, John Musil (11:00) Pat & Mike Oliver**Altar flowers given by Laura & Kevin Hawkins in honor of Thomas' birthday*

# THE LESSONS

Sunday, December 21

## READING *Isaiah 7:10-16*

📖 Reading is from Isaiah the 7th chapter.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For 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.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-25*

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

🙏 Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Now 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🙏 Praise to you, O Christ.