

The 1st Sunday of Advent
at First Lutheran Church in St. Helens, Oregon
Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

***All are welcome in our worship!** Your presence here is a gift from God. We particularly welcome visitors and guests, and we would love to have you join us for coffee hour immediately following the worship service.*

***Follow this worship bulletin** as your guide to the service from beginning to end. Leaders speak the words in regular type; **people speak (or sing) the boldface words.** Please rise, whether physically or simply with your heart, during the portions of the liturgy marked by an asterisk*.*

To get ready for Zoom worship (at home)

We celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you plan to take part. If you do not have access to wine/grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup; Christ is fully present as the “Bread of Life.”



GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together
as the people of God.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

Dr. Denise Reed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Robert Neubert

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen

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

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.



Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

* **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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(SING) - ELW 257 VERSE 1

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.

LITANY

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable. O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.
Amen.

Light the first candle.

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.



HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING - Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

- ¹ To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
- ¹⁰ **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL – Luke 21:25-36**

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Robert Neubert

SERMON

Pastor Robert Neubert



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Refrain
 Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

* APOSTLES' (BAPTISMAL) CREED

With the whole people of God, we make public profession of our faith.

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

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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

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.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially *Charlie Boelk, Carlene Clore, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Sandy Hora, Brian Morse, Joan Heide, Wendy Rude, Jayne Schilling, Joan Johanson, Amanda Bailey, the family of Joel Gross* and all those we lift up upon our hearts or our lips. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another especially through *Columbia Pacific Food Bank*. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died especially *Shelbe Boelk, Mike Johnson and Wynn Reader*. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you!

Greet those around you with gestures that signal Christ's peace.

MEAL



God feeds us
with the presence of Jesus Christ,
risen from the dead.

OFFERING AND MUSICAL OFFERING

Thank you for joining us today! If you would like to support the ministries of First Lutheran, you may place your offering in the wooden bowl when it is passed to you. You may also make your offering by mail, through our website or by using the QR code seen here, with offerings going through VANCO.



As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. (*brief silence*)

Creator God,

you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation

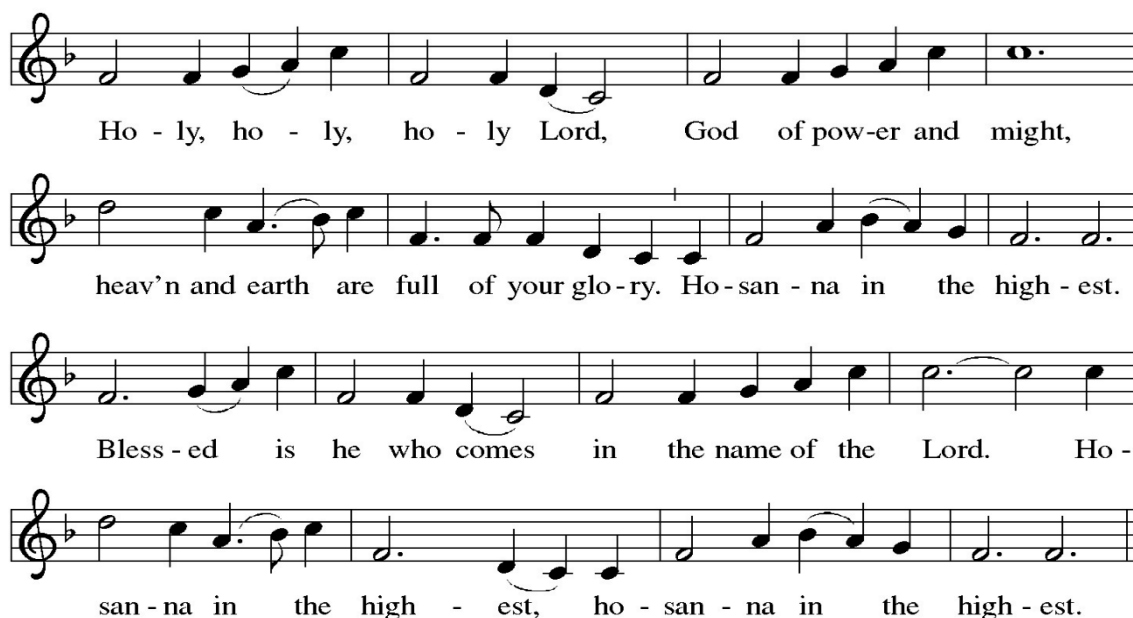
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

* 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 our thanks and praise.

*** PREFACE**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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.

*** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray together, as Jesus taught us:
Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
 now and forever. Amen.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

About our communion practice: All are welcome at the Lord's Table. The music ministers commune first, along with worshipers on Zoom. The communion server and pastor commune last. An usher will invite you forward, or you may request that Communion be brought to you.

You may kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive the bread in your hand or hands and eat it. Ask if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.

Take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the assisting minister's tray and drink it.

Your group will leave the table together after communing. Place your empty cup in the basket on the way back to your seat.

We believe that Christ is truly present at the Lord's Table in the consecrated bread and wine, and Christ welcomes all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Anyone who does not wish to commune is welcome to still come forward. Please signal your wish for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

"Lamb of
 GOD."





1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

He Came Down



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;

*** BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. Generous God,
**we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.**

**We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.**

**We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.**

Amen.

SENDING ~

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

*** BLESSING .**

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

People, Look East
Sing from the hymnal

ELW 248

*** SENDING**

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE



Today's Assisting Ministers

Worship Leader: Pastor Robert Neubert,
 Worship Musician: Dr. Denise Reed
 Cantor: Frank Kenny
 Lay Readers: Vincent Yellott
 Communion Preparer: Caroline DuBois
 Communion Server: Katie Garman
 Communion Clean-up: Cathy Bowcock
 Tech: Mike McCoy
 Ushers: Norris & Sharyn Sundeen
 Altar Flowers: Margaret Booth (for Cheryl's b'day) The Beckers
 Coffee Hour: Ken & Jennifer Anderson

(Next Week –December 8th)

Pastor Robert Neubert
 Dr. Denise Reed
 Kate Freitag
 Sandy Young
 Katie Garman
 Linda McCoy
 Donna Meyers
 Kitty Heide
 Tim Meyers & Kathy Bauska
 TBD

Happening This Week

Sunday 12/1 ***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***
 Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
 Coffee/Fellowship at 11:00 am
 Confirmation class at 11:30 am

Monday 12/2 AlAnon at 7:00 pm

Tuesday 12/3 Bible Study at 10:00 am
 Executive meeting at 5:00 pm
 Community Meals at 5:30 pm
 Advent Service at 6:30 pm
 Bible Study at 7:00 pm
 Properties Committee at 7:00 pm

Wednesday 12/4 Quilters and Crafters at 10:00 am
 AA meditation at 6:30 pm

Friday 12/6 Parents Anonymous at 12:00 noon

Sunday 12/8 ***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT***
 Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
 Coffee/Fellowship at 11:00 am
 Church Council at 11:30 am

Celebrating This Week

Birthdays

12/5 Lydia Reardon

Anniversaries

12/6 Kristol & Ben Cohn

Last Sunday's Worship Attendance

In Person: 68

Zoom: 7

Last Sunday's Offering

\$2,431.00

THANK YOU

WELCA would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Harvest Bazaar. It was a success considering we hadn't held a public one since before COVID. There are too many people to list but, like the saying goes, "it takes a village" and we have an amazing village.

PLEDGES

Last week was pledge Sunday but you can still put your pledge in the box in the narthex.

ADVENT SERVICES

There will be Advent services on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm.

BIBLE STUDY

There will be Bible Study on Tuesday at 10 am and 7:00 pm (following the Advent service).

CONFIRMATION CLASSES have started. The classes are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 11:30 a.m. Children between the ages of 10-14 are welcome to join us as we explore what it means to be part of the church.

LAY HELPERS

We now have the lay helper sheet up for December. There will be a separate one posted later for Christmas Eve service. Please look and see where you can help and sign up soon so we have all Sundays covered. Also, there are a couple of spots still available for flowers and coffee hour. The new flower chart will be posted soon. Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help.

Portions of our liturgy come from sundaysandseasons.com; Augsburg Fortress Annual License #23164. "My Lord What a Morning", Music and text in Public Domain. "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning", Text & Music in public domain. "As the Grains of Wheat" Tune: © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. , Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690. "Christ, Be Our Light" Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690. "He Came Down" Text and music in the Public Domain. Transcr. and arr. by John L. Bell, © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690.