Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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December 21st, 2025 9:30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



With One Voice - Setting 5 (Bread of Life), page 28
Please leave your offering in the plate at the door
You may stand at times marked with an asterisk (*)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude and Contemplation

Karen Niemeier

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of Advent Wreath

P: Seek the Lord while he may be found.
C: Call upon him while he is near.

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.
C: Make the Lord's paths straight.

P: Lift up your heads, O gates,
C: that the king of glory may come in.

P: The Spirit and the church cry out:
C: Come, Lord Jesus!

P: All those who await his appearance pray:
C: Come, Lord Jesus!

P: The whole creation pleads:
C: Come, Lord Jesus!

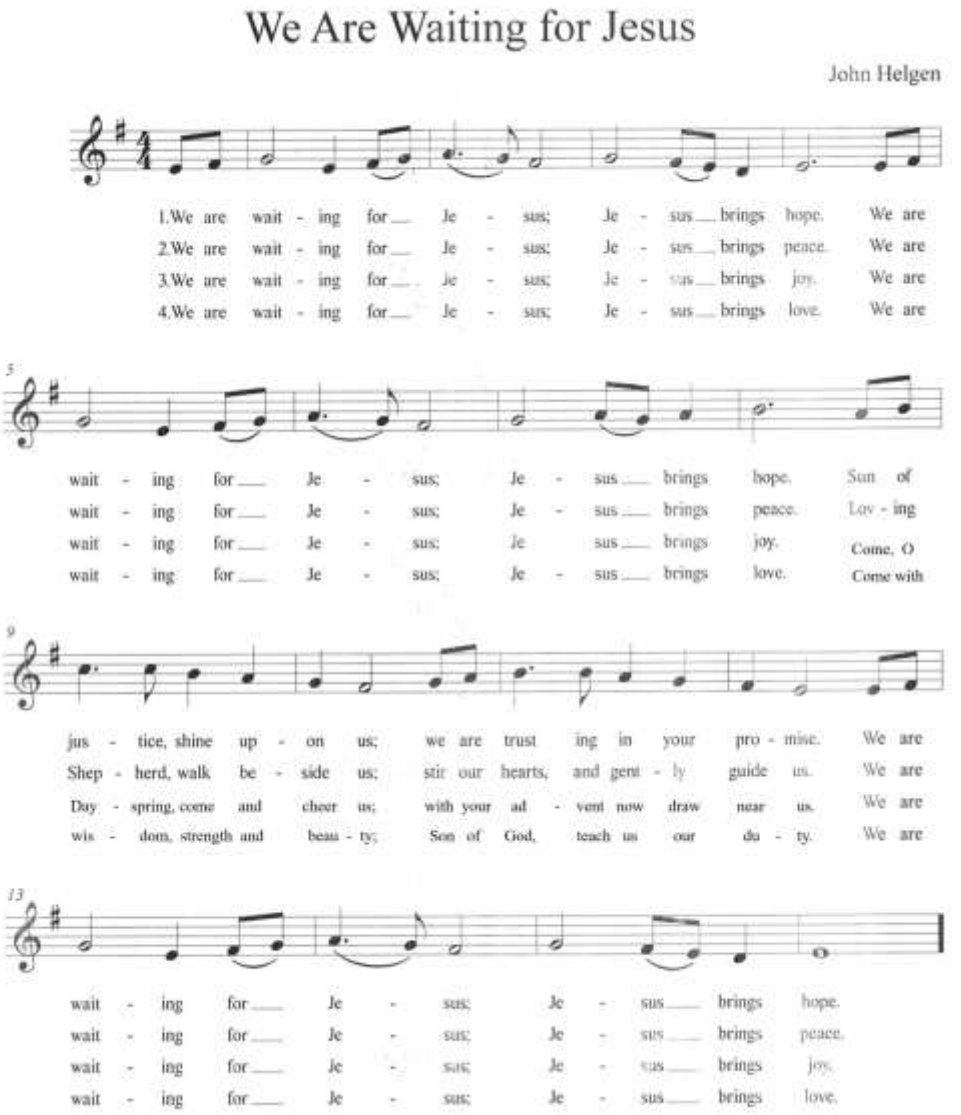
P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have show us your light and saved us from the power of sin.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

.**C: Amen.**

The four candles are lit.

Advent Song ***We Are Waiting for Jesus*** **ACS # 905, verse 4**



Confession and Forgiveness *WOV page 10*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for reflection

P: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,

C: we have sinned against you and against our neighbor,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with repentance and faith turn to him, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through ☩ Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** Hymn** ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** **ELW # 257, verses 1, 2, 6, 7**

* Greeting *WOV page 28*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

* Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy* *WOV page 28*

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Christe eleison. **C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

* Canticle *Glory to God* *WOV page 29*

C: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God...

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

Glory to God...

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God…
and peace to God's people on earth.

* Prayer of the Day

P: 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 .

C: Amen.

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-16*

L: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not
ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." 13 And he said, "Hear then,
O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary
my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold,
the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Im-
manuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse
the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy knows how to re-
fuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread
will be deserted. *[ESV]*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: *80:1-7, 17-19*

L: Let us read responsively from Psalm 80.

80 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

2 **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,**
stir up your might and come to save us!

[3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
[4] **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
[6] **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
[17] **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,**
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
[18] Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!
[19] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!**
Let your face shine, that we may be saved! *[ESV]*

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

L: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, [3] concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh [4] and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, [5] through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, [6] including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

[7] To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: *[ESV]*

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation *WOV page 31*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

* Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-25*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother
Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she
was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Jo-
seph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to
divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an an-
gel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of Da-
vid, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in
her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his
name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took
place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did
as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew
her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Je-
sus.." *[ESV]*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Thomas Mosbo

*** Hymn** ***Hark, The Glad Sound!*** **ELW # 239**

*** Nicene Creed** *WOV page 32*

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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 whom 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

Choir Anthem *Empty Lies the Manger*

Prayers of Intercession *WOV page 34*

L: As God's people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Please respond to each petition with the following:

L: … God of mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Fern Harnish, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Marilyn Fulfs, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Darlene Aurand, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Frietag, Connor Stadermann, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Brenda, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschadl, Gary L. Hartwig, Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Gene Medeke, Demetrio Velazco, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy, Pat McCluskey, Jim Briggs, Sandi, Tina, Jim and Ronald Schrader.

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Peace

WOV page 34

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Chime Choir Anthem ***The King Shall Come***

Responses

WOV page 36

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.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

WOV page 36

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.

Eucharistic Prayer *WOV page 37*

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord…

...be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer *WOV page 39*

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Canticle *Lamb of God* *WOV page 39*

C: 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.

Distribution

All are welcome to come to receive Christ's body and blood
or you may come to receive a blessing.

Once all have received:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Blessing *WOV page 41*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you,
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace,
In the name of the Father, ☩ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..

C: Amen.

* Hymn ***Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*** **ELW # 246**

* Dismissal *WOV page 41*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Karen Niemeier



Please be sure that any *offering contribution you would like credit for this year, is received prior* to the end of worship on

Sunday, December 28, 2025.

Contribution received after that time will be credited in 2026.Thank you for your cooperation.

Your generosity and cooperation are very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sheila at (815)369-5101. Thank you.

Annual Reports Are Due

Annual reports are required for each committee and organization of the congregation. These reports are assembled and made available to the congregation members prior to the meeting. The reports are the responsibility of the chairperson or offices. If possible, please type up the report and email it to;

GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com

in Word format.

Thank you.



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship Service, 7:00pm

Communion will be served.

Christmas Morning

Worship Service at 9:30am

Communion will **not** be served.

Good Shepherd will be at the

Le-Win Food Pantry

Saturday, December 27th. 8:30am-11:30am

Men's Group

Saturday, December 27th, 4:30pm

Attendance December 7th

In-person - 20, on-line - not available

The Holy Night

By Elizabeth Barrett Browning

We sate among the stalls at Bethlehem;
The dumb kine from their fodder turning them,
Softened their horned faces
To almost human gazes
Toward the newly Born:
The simple shepherds from the star-lit brooks
Brought their visionary looks,
As yet in their astonied hearing rung
The strange sweet angel-tongue:
The magi of the East, in sandals worn,
Knelt reverent, sweeping round,
With long pale beards, their gifts upon the ground,
The incense, myrrh, and gold
These baby hands were impotent to hold:
So let all earthlies and celestials wait
Upon thy royal state.
Sleep, sleep, my kingly One!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was an English poet who lived from 1806-1861. her first book of poems was published privately by her father at age 14. she was a Christian who taught herself Greek and Hebrew so she could better study the Bible, and this poem has religious roots in the retelling of Christ's birth.

Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-holy-night-by-elizabeth-barrett-browning