

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**      Variations on *Veni Emmanuel*      - Flor Peeters

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN** “My Lord, What a Morning” **ELW 438**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND GREETING**

*The candles of the Advent wreath are lit.*

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. **Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

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.**

**KYRIE** **ELW S529**

*Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The cantor will sing the verses.*



*Turn to us again, O God, our Savior, let your anger cease from us.*

*Lord, have mercy.*



Lord, have mer - cy.

*Show us your compassion, O God our Lord, grant us your salvation.*

*Christ, have mercy.*



Christ, have mer - cy.

*Come and bring salvation; we wait, O God; may your glory dwell in us.*

*Lord, have mercy.*



Lord, have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

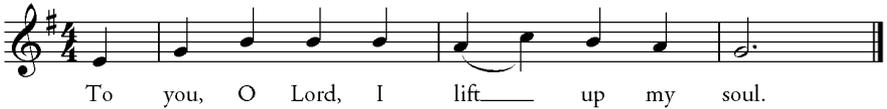
<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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

*Worshippers are invited to join the choir in singing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will chant the psalm text.*



*To you O Lord I lift up my soul; my God I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. Show me your ways O Lord and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.*  
**REFRAIN**

*Remember O Lord your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love, and for the sake of your goodness O Lord. Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*  
**REFRAIN**

## SECOND LESSON

## I Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Worshippers are invited to join the choir in singing the refrain; the choir will chant the verse.*



*Stand up and raise your heads – your redemption is drawing near.*

## GOSPEL

**Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel, according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

<sup>34</sup>“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, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanzas 1 – 4

**ELW 257**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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,  
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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **RECEIVING THE OFFERING**

**ANTHEM**                      “Lost in the Night”                      - Kyle Haugen

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**      *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. **Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you

will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**

**ELW 190**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

*Please be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**ELW 199**



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn” - Susan Cherwein /  
Carl Schalk

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. **In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world’s needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending”  
tune, *Picardy*

- 1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

- 2 Now redemption, long-expected,  
comes in solemn splendor near;  
all the saints this world rejected  
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
See the day of God appear!
- 3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace; serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Variations on *Lucent*

- David Lasky

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