

# 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 27, 2022

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

Variations on *Burleigh* - Richard Billingham

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace.  
We dishonor one another and your creation.  
Purify us with your refining fire  
and set us again on your way of love,  
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

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

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for favored sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev’ry eye shall now behold him  
robed in glorious majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall their true Messiah see.

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; Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

## **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 THE ADVENT WREATH

All worshipers will sing the refrain; the cantor will chant the O antiphon.

## REFRAIN

Ma - ra - na - tha, ma - ra - na - tha.  
Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus.

Ma - ra - na - tha, ma - ra - na - tha. Come.  
Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Come. Come.

*O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, Come. You open and no one can close, come. You close and no one can open. Come. Come and free the captives dwelling death's shadows. **REFRAIN***

*Four candles 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5



*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “may they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. For my brethren and companions’ sake, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.”* **REFRAIN**

**SECOND LESSON**

**Romans 13: 11-14**

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will chant the proper.*



*Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.*

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day

Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “My Lord, What a Morning” **ELW 438**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith in 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for  
a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken  
the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down  
barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your  
redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our  
prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift.  
Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard  
fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered  
plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools  
for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work

for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

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

## **RECEIVING THE OFFERING**

**ANTHEM**                      "People of the Night"                      - David Haas

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

Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. **Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your**

mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

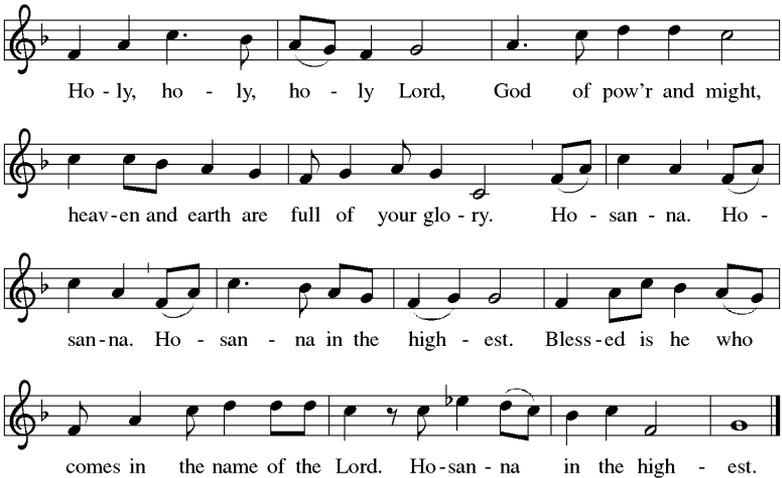
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

ELW S144b



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

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.



## 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**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

### **LAMB OF GOD**

**ELW S146**

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

## **MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION**

Variations on *Consolation*

- David Johnson

*After all have communed, please stand if you are able.*

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. **As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and 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

“The King Shall Come”

**ELW 260**

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

“Voluntary”

- John Zundel

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