

## **Second Sunday in Advent**



A Real Christmas is Rooted in Repentance

## **Lord of Love Lutheran Church**Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



**Welcome!** We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as "a joyful dialogue with God." God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this "joyful dialogue" today!

**Restrooms** – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

**Parent's Room** – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

**Offering Message** – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but certainly may if you wish.

**Explanation of the theme of the day:** The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure. There is so much work to be done! We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to really be ready for Christmas: only repentance. You see, repentance is the opposite of work. It is the candid and honest admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by Christ.

At this frenetic time of year, the call to repent is not another demand to do something more. It is gracious invitation to set down our work to make way for Christ's work. Rooted in that repentant rest, we can fully enjoy a real Christmas.

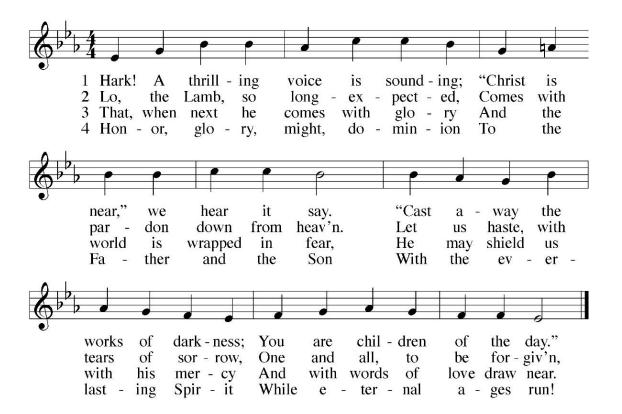
## **Lord of Love Lutheran Church**

**December 8, 2024** 

### THE COMMON SERVICE

**OPENING HYMN** (CW 15)

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding



Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

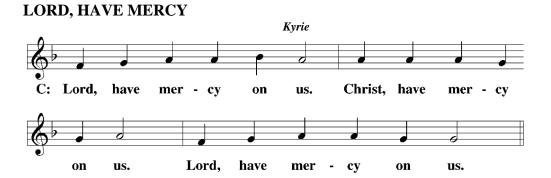
Tune: MERTON (87 87) William H. Monk, 1823-89.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



#### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

- **M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**M:** We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

**M:** We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit.

#### ANTHEM BY QUINTET

"A Branch So Fair Has Blossomed"



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### **M:** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



#### THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Malachi 3:1-7

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! <sup>3</sup> He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

<sup>5</sup> I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>6</sup> Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. <sup>7</sup> Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. <sup>8</sup> Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. <sup>10</sup> This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

#### APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

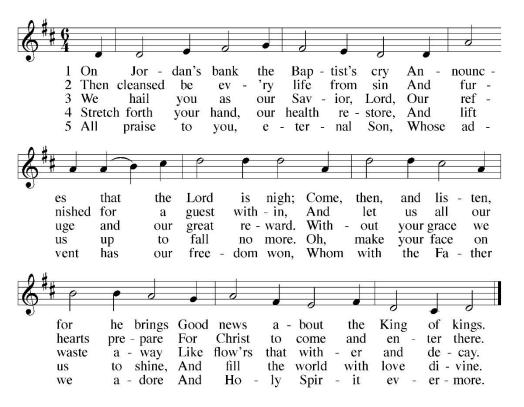
He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5. Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.



SERMON Luke 3:1-6

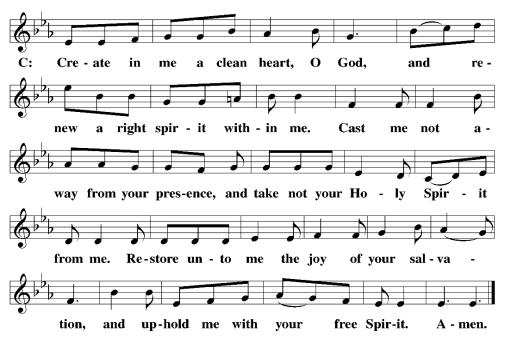
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

- "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.
- <sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.
- <sup>6</sup> And everyone will see the salvation of God."

#### In the Fifteenth Year of the Reign of Tiberius Caesar...

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



#### GATHERING OF THE THANK-OFFERING

While the offering is being collected, please sign and pass the Friendship Register.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **M:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.
- C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.
- **M:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.
- C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
- M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.
- C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.
- M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.
- C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.
- M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

#### THE SACRAMENT

#### **PREFACE**

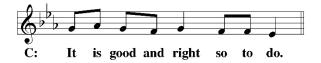
**M:** The Lord be with you.



**M:** Lift up your hearts.

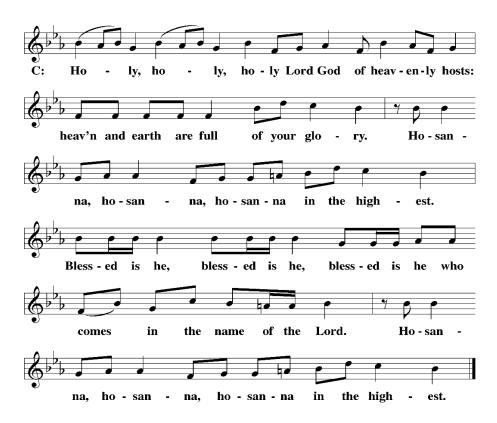


M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



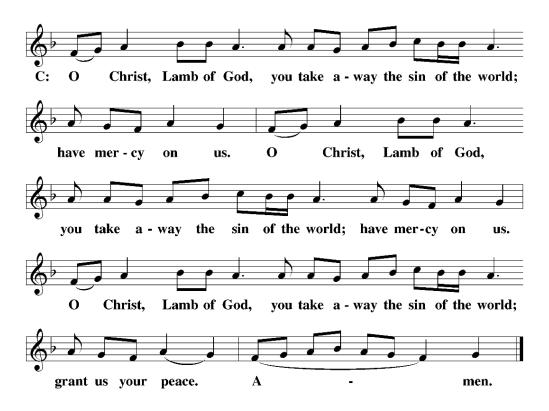
#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.





BE SEATED

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.



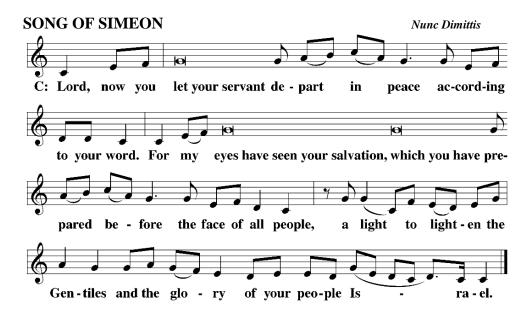
Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Freu dich sehr (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt. Tune: Was frag Ich Nach der Welt (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

STAND



**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



BE SEATED

#### **CLOSING HYMN** (CW 6)

#### Come, O Long-Expected Jesus



- 1 Come, O long ex pect ed Je sus, Born to set your peo ple free; 2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,

From our sins and fears re-lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry. Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con-so - la-tion, Hope to all the earth im-part, By your own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear De-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. By your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to your glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: St. Hilary (87 87 D) Unknown.

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#### **Personal Prayers for Worship**

#### **Before Communion:**

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

#### **After Communion:**

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

**Gluten Free communion wafers:** Gluten free communion wafers are available during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you would prefer this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar.

#### **Weekly Bible Studies**

**Sunday 9:15 am: Exodus,** *sanctuary* 

Tuesday 9:00 am: The Gospel of John, lower level

Wednesday 6:30 pm: Revelation, lower level

Friday 6:00 am: Breakfast 6:00, Bible study 6:45 | The Book of Esther

DeForest Family Restaurant (505 W. North Street, DeForest)

#### **Sunday December 8: Second Sunday in Advent**

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Pianist: Kristin Huebner
- Councilman: 8:00: Phil Boll, 10:30: Mitch Mhyre
- Ushers 8:00: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund, Kayden and Kourtney Zech
- Ushers 10:30: The Heath Family
- Counters: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer
- A/V & Recording: Devin Anderson
- Refreshments: The Corcoran Family

#### **Sunday December 15: Third Sunday in Advent**

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman: 8:00: Mike Wilson, 10:30: Steve Kalscheuer
- Ushers 8:00: Dave and Ben Olson
- Ushers 10:30: The Holzman Family
- Counters: Roger LaGrange and Greg Zeman
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson
- Refreshments: Donna Cotter and Barb Schade

<u>Happy Birthday</u> We wish God's blessings to Lynn Biwer (12/8), Jay Vinson (12/9), and Cindy Nelson (12/13) as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

<u>Anniversary</u> We wish God's blessings to Mark and Nettie Beyer (12/12) as they celebrate their anniversary this week.

<u>In Our Prayers</u> Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Peg Schroeder, John Schueman, and Steve Tobison, who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Carter Chavez (grandson of John & Sherry Hill), and Shannon Garrett.

#### **COMING UP AT LORD OF LOVE**

**December 8:** Advent by Candlelight at Lord of Love | 3:00 pm arrival, 3:15 pm Service

**December 12:** Giving Tree Donations Due

**December 18:** Children's Christmas Service

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Worship Service | 6:30 pm

<u>December 25:</u> Christmas Day Worship Service | 9:00 am

**December 31:** New Year's Eve Worship Service | 4:00 pm

#### Children's Christmas Service Practice | December 14 from 9:00—10:00 am

Reminder there are 2 more Saturday Children's Christmas Service Practices before the Service December 18.

#### Advent by Candlelight | TODAY 3:00 pm—All Ladies Invited!

We would like to invite all of the ladies to the Advent by Candlelight Service here at Lord of Love, the afternoon of December 8. Arrival is at 3:00 pm with the Service beginning at 3:15 pm and a social fellowship with coffee, cider and desserts following in the fellowship hall. To attend or volunteer to help, see the sign-up sheets as you enter church. Volunteers are needed in the areas of set-up, clean-up, preparing a dessert, or assisting with a part during the service.

#### Seeking Musicians for Our Christmas Eve Worship Service

If there are members (any ages) that would like to participate in the pre or post service music on Christmas Eve, please reach out to Kristin Huebner. Musical selections would be of a religious nature (not secular) and for children, we ask that their current piano, band, or vocal teacher be able to assist in the preparation of their choice. Kristin can be reached at 608-217-5109 (text or voice) and kmhueb@gmail.com

#### **Christmas Poinsettia Donations**

The altar guild is asking for donations of poinsettias (or funds to purchase on your behalf) this year to decorate for our Christmas services. If you would like to donate a poinsettia, simply purchase one (in any color) and bring it to church. The plants can be brought to church anytime during the month until December 23, and can be taken home after the Christmas Day worship. The altar guild will arrange and maintain the poinsettias. Any donations need to be received in the church office by December 15th Please use the small white labeled envelope found in the office, and can be placed in the collection basket on the counter.

#### Giving Tree Community Gift Donations – please have to church by Thursday December 12

The Community Gift Giving Tree is now placed at the back of church. We have been provided 10 families to provide gifts for this Christmas. If you would like to donate a gift, please take an ornament from the Giving Tree and purchase a gift on noted on the back. Gifts have a maximum value of \$30. Please have all unwrapped gift donations delivered to Church by Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>, with the family number indicated on the gift so it can be delivered to the appropriate family. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

#### Ride Assistance Requested:

A WELS Member who recently moved to Waunakee Manor Senior Living reached out to inquire if we have any members who would be willing to provide rides for her to attend our 8:00 am worship service Sunday mornings. She does use a walker, which will need to be transported with her. If you have interest and are willing to assist her, please contact Kristin in the office at (608) 846-9036 or lolchurchoffice@gmail.com for additional details.

#### Please make note of these weekly schedule changes during the Month of December

- No Quilting December 23 & December 30
- No Tuesday Morning Bible Study December 24 & December 31

# Christmas & New Year's Worship Schedule

## **Children's Christmas Service**

Do Not Be Afraid.

I Bring You Good News!

Wednesday December 18, 6:30 pm

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

December 24, 6:30 pm

## **Christmas Day Worship**

December 25, 9:00 am

## **New Year's Eve Worship**

December 31, 4:00 pm





105 Paradise Circle, DeForest, WI 53532
608-846-9036 | lolchurchoffice@gmail.com | www.lordoflovelutheran.org

Pastor Joel Jenswold pr.jenswold@gmail.com Cell phone: 608-572-1654

Chairman: Mitch Myhre, mitchmyhre@hotmail.com
Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday.
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling*.

# "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1



Today's 8:00 service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament. Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.