

Immanuel - God With Us

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel" **Matthew 1:23**



Advent Week 2: Lamb of God

"Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People."

December 11, 2024

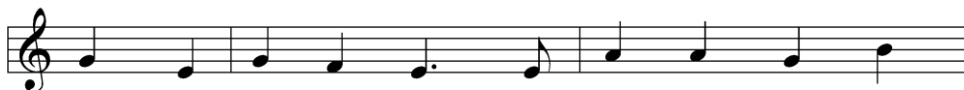
Advent Mid-Week 2

God With Us

Opening Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" LSB 358 Vss 1,3



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

Invocation is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the Son T and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In the second week of Advent we light the Candle of Peace. Today we remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace." The prophets told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

(An acolyte lights the first two blue candles.)

Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). Christ comes as God with us to bring us peace in this life and the promise of everlasting peace. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him real peace is found. Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets proclaimed your coming as bringing the gift of peace to your people. Coming Savior, give us peace in our hearts at Christmas. Remain present with us and help us today to hear your Word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with all. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

C Loving Father, who sent Jesus as Shepherd and Savior, we confess that our distracted doing has shrouded our Advent and turned us to follow our own way. Forgive us for shaping the celebration to fit our desires. Seize us by your Spirit. Focus our eyes and hearts on the coming Christ. Inspire us with Christ's advent so that we shout from the housetops the Good News that in the coming Savior God is indeed with us. Make us into your joy-filled messengers, sharing your powerful message of salvation for all.

P Jesus has promised that the sins we forgive on earth will also be forgiven in heaven. Trusting that precious promise, as a called and ordained minister of the Gospel, I confidently declare to you that, in Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven, and you are privileged to share that same forgiveness with all the others in your life. We are filled with Jesus' light of life so that we can shine among the people of this world like stars in the sky.

Call to Worship

P A voice cries out, "In the wilderness clear a way for the Lord;
C **make a way in the desert, a road for our God.**

P Every valley must be lifted up, and every mountain and hill leveled.
C **The rough places will become a level plain, the rugged land a wide valley.**

P The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it at the same time.
C **For the Lord has decreed it."**

P "Go up on a high mountain, O herald Zion!
C **Shout out loudly, O herald Jerusalem! Shout, don't be afraid!**

P Say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!'"
C **"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.**

P And they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us)."
C **"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

Prayer of the Day

P Jesus our gentle Shepherd, we seek to follow your leading through the pastures shaped by your grace and even through the dark wilderness of our own straying. Trusting in your promised care and forgiveness, we depend on your hand to guide us, your love to hold us, your presence to care for us and your promises to bless our steps into the future. Loving Shepherd, lead us. Powerful protector, guard us. Wise leader, go before us as we confidently commit ourselves to follow you now and into the future you have prepared for us. We pray it in your strong name. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

LSB 358 Vss 4, 5



4 “He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
5 “These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad- dling
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made.”

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Gospel Reading

John 1:19-31

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

Sermon Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" LSB 358 Vss 6, 7, 8

6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the

shep - herds let us go To see what God for
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my

us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.

Sermon God with Us – Lamb of God Pastor Scott Henze



Prayers of the Church

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

+

P Lord, we have seen the sun go on its annual trek into the southern sky and watched the days shorten. The darkness closes in and we long for the light. Send us your light, Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Loving Lord, we are lulled into early sleep, and we hide ourselves in the darkness. Like lost sheep, we grope along our spiritual path and wander in the gloom. The darkness calls on us to sit idle and close our eyes to our darkening world. In this bleak time of spiritual sleep, stir us Lord. Wake us with your light. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Stir us up with a new vision of what your Spirit loose in our life and in our world can do through us. Set us on fire with your Word and with the light of your presence so that we are consumed with a passion for telling, proclaiming, sharing, giving away the Good News of the coming of the Savior of the world. Make us indeed the "light of the world" as we were called by Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Renew us as lights that carry the light, that live the light, that show the light of that good gift that you send us once again this Christmas. Fill us with your presence so that we can hear and answer your calling that they may see our good works and glorify you. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Send us as your light bearers to those who still sit in darkness, struggle with the crush of poverty, need, illness, grief or depression. We name before you in our hearts those who we know are in special need of your healing and strength. Help us share your presence and power. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Stir us with the joy and peace and hope that you send in the Baby that came to Bethlehem. Stir up our expectation for the wonder he will create as our Shepherd in the world, in our lives, in our homes, in our hearts. In the strong name of the Good Shepherd, coming into the world, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Benediction



Closing Hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" LSB 358 Vss 10, 14, 15

10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with
14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to

gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too
more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with
us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with

poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.
joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Dismissal

- P Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....
C **Disciples making disciples.**
- P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

An offering plate is stationed in the back of the sanctuary.
Your Advent gift may be placed there.





Evening Advent Worship Services

December 18—6:00 p.m. (Preschool Program)

Kids Choir Christmas Service

December 15

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24 - 5:00 p.m. (Kids service/No communion)

December 24 - 8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. (Traditional Service)

Christmas Day Worship Service

December 25 - 10:00 a.m. (Traditional Service)



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

St. Paul
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