Sunday Worship Service – November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome Statement

As a sign that our welcome statement reflects that we are all committed to the acceptance and inclusion of all people, just as Jesus taught us and modelled for us, we say together:

You are welcome here,
you whose face reflects the Divine, whose spirit I may not define,
you, whose eyes have seen, what I will never dream.
You, whose frame is bent or broken, whose mind fears the unspoken.

Recognizing that each person is a unique child of God, created in the image of God, we celebrate diversity through all the variations of age, ability, culture, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, family configuration, beliefs, personality, and economic circumstances. You will be honoured here.

Introduction*

Watching, waiting, staying alert, and paying attention are the themes of the Bible readings this morning, and of Advent in general. In Advent, we are reminded that Christ is coming, but also that God is already with us, having appeared in the birth of the Christ-child. Today's Bible readings invite us to take the time to see the signs and accept the grace that is already transforming our lives.

Prayer of Confession*

God of hope, **you call us to wait, to watch, to be ready. But we are so easily distracted, busily doing other things. We grow drowsy and complacent. Give us wisdom, as we prepare for your coming. Forgive our foolishness and our impatience. Restore us by your grace. Look upon us with your favour, that we might know your presence. Shape us into vessels of blessing, for we are your children, longing to touch your Spirit. Amen.**

Words of Assurance*

God calls us to be watchful, awakened to new possibilities and vibrant growth. Know that God restores us to abundant life.
We are recreated in God's holy image
With growth in the Spirit, we know that God is near and forgives us:
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#715 Gathering Hymn *"Christ, Be Our Light*

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Refrain

5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Refrain

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.**

Advent Wreath Lighting[1] - Hope

Now is the time for the colour blue. Blue is the colour of hope, because with great hope we anticipate the birth of our saviour, Emmanuel, God with us. We are getting ready to enter the mystery of Christmas. We are on our way to Bethlehem and we go with the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Magi. It is not just back then, it is also now.

Prophets are people who come so close to God, and God comes so close to them, that they know what is most important. They pointed the way to Bethlehem.

They knew something special was going to happen and it gave people hope. So today we light the first Advent Candle of Hope.

As we look at this candle, we celebrate the hope offered through the Prophets who point to Bethlehem and the Christ child. Likewise we recognize that we ourselves are a gift of hope, to many in this community and to many more around the world.

"Light a Candle Bright and Tall"[2] (tune: #302 "*As with Gladness Men of Old"*)

1. **Light a candle bright and tall for the Hope within our world.**
   Hope that heard the ages' call as the stars and planets whirled.
   Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.

Prayer of the Day*

God, **your promise of hope comes to us, wrapped in anticipation and expectation. We continue to thank you that a new day is dawning – a day when we will see the Promised One coming with power and glory. As we await that day with great hope, may we use our spiritual gifts to your glory. Amen.**

Psalm: **Psalm 80:1-3, 7,17-19**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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[1] Adapted using Godly Play Advent Lessons

[2] Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1838

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Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In the New Testament reading from the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, we hear that the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus. Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from 1st Corinthians, chapter 1:

Grace to you and peace from our loving God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.
I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through God in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for Jesus Christ to be revealed. God will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Saviour Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by God to partnership with Jesus our Saviour.

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

#262 Gospel Acclamation *"Wait for the Lord"* 2x
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! (2x)

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

In the gospel reading from Mark, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.
"Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that the Promised One is near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.
"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Promised One. Only God knows. Watch out!
Stay awake! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay awake! You don't know when the owner of the house will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let the owner show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay awake!"

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

Sermon

#242 Hymn of the Day *"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

**1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us for ever.**

2. **To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

3. **In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,**
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

4. **Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,**
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

p.105 **Apostles' Creed** *(inside back cover of ELWB)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession[3]

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

[3] https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2026-11-29/0#texts

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire all who lead our worship and prayer and those who quietly volunteer behind the scenes. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Presentation of the Gifts *(offering is brought forward)*

Offering Prayer*

Generous and loving God, **you give us everything we need. Surrounded and supported by your love, there is nothing we lack. As we bring our offerings to you, may they support your work of peace and justice, and bring hope to the world. As we bring our very selves to you, mold and shape us as you will, then send us forth to love and serve. Amen.**

Holy Communion[4]

God is with you. **And also with you.**
Come, Emmanuel into our longing hearts. **We lift them up to You.**
As we gather at this table, i**n anticipation and hope.**

Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

[4] Written by Rev Tanya Ramer, ELCIC pastor in the Eastern Synod

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Distribution

#481 Communion Hymn *"Come to the Table"*

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty, drink and your soul will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation, receive from his nail scarred hand;
eat of the bread of salvation, drink of the blood of the Lamb.
(repeat song 3x)

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion[5]

Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing*

Prepare your heart, for God is near.
In the darkness, a candle of hope burns brightly.
In the quiet, God speaks to us.
Go with hope, and remain aware and awake,
In the name of + God our Creator,
Jesus our Friend, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter. Amen

[5] https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts

#239 Sending Hymn *"Hark the Glad Sound"* (v.1,3-4)

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'ns eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.
Thanks be to God!

Sources:

- Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB) and have been adapted for inclusive language.
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