

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

*8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion*

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church warmly welcomes people of any age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, life circumstance, and physical or mental capability*

Please silence your cell phones

\*You are invited to stand

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### ∞ GATHERING ∞

#### PRELUDE

**“Christmas Bell Rejoicing” Bells of Good Shepherd**

*-Michael Ryan*

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection. (Stand or kneel)*

**P** Long-expected God,

**C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

**P** God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C Amen.**

#### \*GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C And also with you.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### **ABC's OF CHRISTMAS\***

#### **LETTERS "A" THROUGH "E"**

##### **CAROL**

##### **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**ELW #279**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

#### **LETTERS "F" THROUGH "M"**

##### **CAROL**

##### **"Away in A Manger"**

**ELW #277**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

#### **LETTERS "N" THROUGH "Z"**

##### **CAROL**

##### **"Silent Night"**

**ELW #281**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

##### **SERMON**

**"Whispers", adapted from Pastor Karen Boda  
Bishop Yehiel Curry's 2025 message to the ELCA**

##### **\*HYMN OF DAY**

##### **"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding "**

**ELW #246**

## \*APOSTLES' CREED

☞ 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

*The Assisting Minister will close each petition with the words, "God of grace," worshippers will respond with the words, "hear our prayer."*

## \*PEACE

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

*(Please greet one another with a friendly word or non-contact gesture of God's peace.)*

## ∞ MEAL ∞

## OFFERING

*Please sign the "Who's Who in the Pew" pads and pass along as the offering is received. Please indicate if you are a visitor to Good Shepherd.*

## OFFERING ANTHEM

## "Advent Candle Song"

## Chancel Choir

*-Arthur Clyde*

## \*OFFERING HYMN

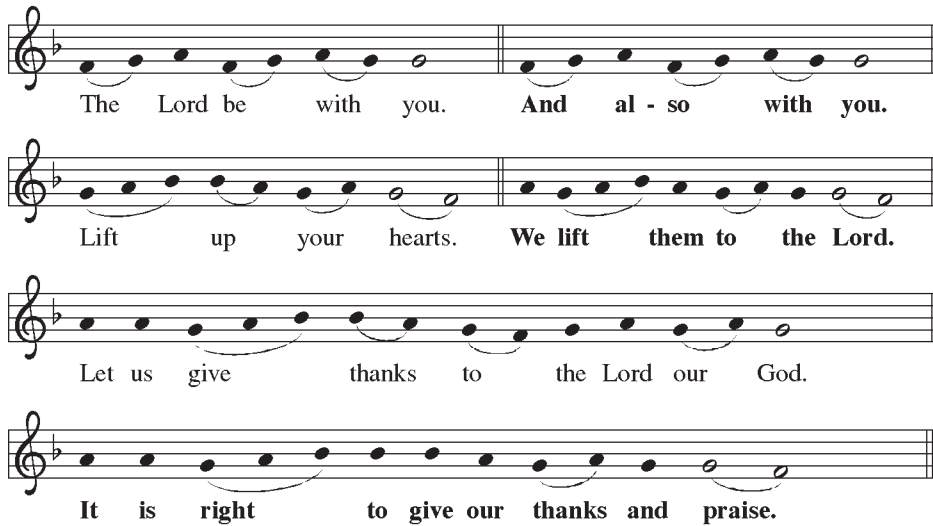
## "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

## ELW #181

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

☞ Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. ☞ **Amen.**

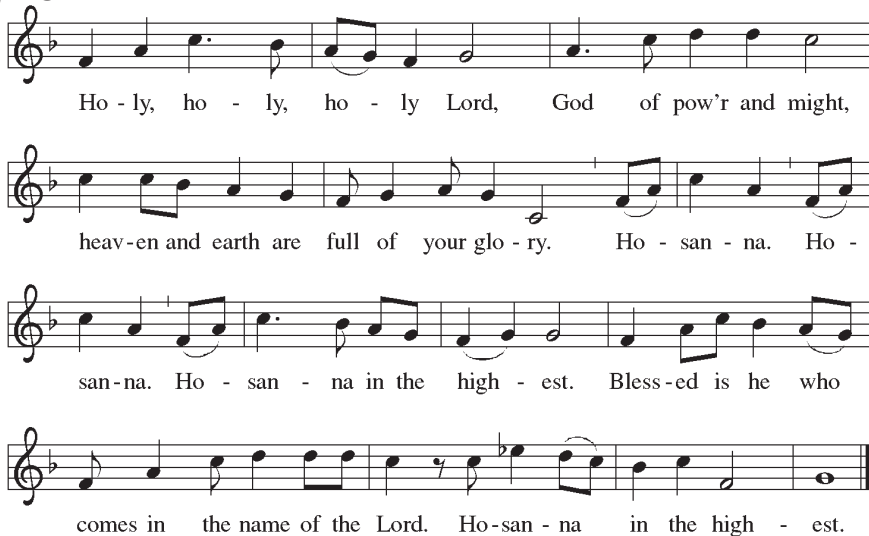
## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

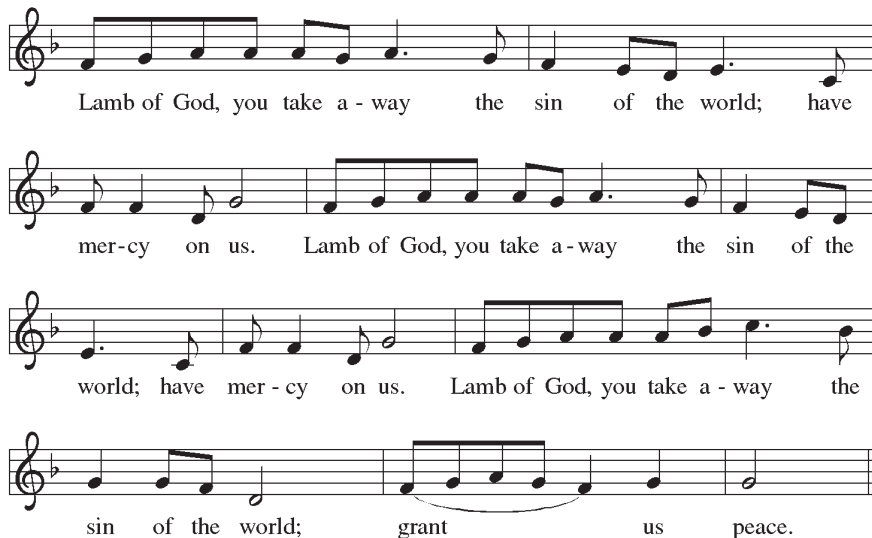
## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## \*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.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### LAMB OF GOD



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.

## COMMUNION/COMMUNION HYMNS

“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”

ELW #470

“For the Bread which You have Broken”

ELW #494

## \*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- ☐ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- ☑ Amen.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
- ☑ Amen.

## ∞ SENDING ∞

### **\*BLESSING**

**P** May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**A** Amen.

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

**“People Look East”**

**ELW #248**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Keep Awake.

**A** Thanks be to God.

### **\*POSTLUDE**

**“The Holy Boy (A Carol of the Nativity)” Anna Kate Peed**

*-John Ireland*

*Please consider remaining seated and enjoy the closing postlude, offered as a musical gift for your Christmas reflection.*

# Join us for Advent Worship on Wednesdays

## Noon and 7:30 pm



Luke's Gospel begins: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor, but it reveals the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord."

Travel with us through Advent as we ask: is it possible to be fearless in a fearful world? Can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

This sermon series will be based on Sanctified Art's Advent 2025 series, What do you fear?

### Final Week 3, December 17

Text: Luke 1:26-39, Jeremiah 1:4-10

Theme: Even in our fear, we are called forward

Credit: sanctifiedart.org, Sanctified Art, Advent 2025: What do you fear?

## Christmas Worship

**DEC 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP WITH  
CANDLE LIGHTING & COMMUNION

**4 PM & 9 PM**

PRAISE WORSHIP WITH  
CANDLE LIGHTING & COMMUNION

**7 PM**

**DEC 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

LESSONS & CAROLS

**10 AM**

Livestreamed Christmas Eve  
Service: 4 PM | Facebook.  
com/gslcwoodstock



## STAY CONNECTED AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Looking for more announcement details? Read your Sheep Buzz! Sign-up on our website for a newsletter to be delivered to your e-mail inbox every Friday around 3 PM. Want to get a text when a Sheep Buzz is sent? Text [media@gslutheran.org](mailto:media@gslutheran.org) to be added to the list of recipients.

## WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY!

8:30 AM Traditional Worship | 10:45 AM Praise Worship  
Facebook Live at [facebook.com/gslcwoodstock](https://facebook.com/gslcwoodstock)

9:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Studies (Through Dec. 21 for adult classes; Youth classes are on break.) All classes resume January 4, 2026)

Sign up to receive  
our weekly  
SHEEP BUZZ



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### GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Rev. Karen Boda ..... Pastor  
Pam Weinelt ..... Praise Team Coordinator  
Anna Kate Peed ..... Organist/Choir Director  
Michelle Provost ..... Office Coordinator  
Donna Garges ..... Media Coordinator  
Carrie Escamilla ..... Bookkeeper  
Aaron Frink ..... Custodian

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\*ABC's of Christmas | Original Script by Rev. Erin Klassen1, modified by Rev. Mark Molter2, then adapted for Good Shepherd by Rev. Karen Boda

1208 ROSE CREEK DRIVE  
WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA 30189  
770-924-7286  
[GSLUTHERAN.ORG](http://GSLUTHERAN.ORG)  
[FACEBOOK@GSLCWOODSTOCK](https://FACEBOOK@GSLCWOODSTOCK)

[INSTAGRAM@GSLUTHERAN](https://INSTAGRAM@GSLUTHERAN)  
[YOUTUBE@GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCHURCH6079](https://YOUTUBE@GOODSHEPHERDLUTHERANCHURCH6079)

