

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

10:45 AM Praise 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-This service is streamed live on Facebook and will be posted to YouTube.

*You are invited to stand

✠ GATHERING ✠

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise Team

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

☞ **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection. (Stand or kneel)

☞ Long-expected God,

☞ **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.**

☞ 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. ☞ **Amen.**

***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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ 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.

MEDITATION

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

SONG OF THE DAY

"Come Lord Jesus"

Words and Music by Diane Thiel; © 2009 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing

Intro

Come Lord Jesus come redeem us
We will wait for You

Verse 1

You will flood our souls with light
Bring the broken world to rights
As You swallow death with life
We will be singing

Chorus

Come Lord Jesus come redeem us
We will wait for You
When the night gives way to the light
Our hearts will know it is You

Verse 2

And still waters You will stir
As we're changed from who we were
We're no longer 'neath the curse
You'll find us singing

Chorus

*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 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.)

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 SONG

"Ready the Way"

-By Curtis Stephan

Praise Team

*OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

*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

COMMUNION/COMMUNION SONGS

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

Words and Music by Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone, Mark Campbell, Stephen Lynch, Stephen Blake Kanicka and Ben Backus © Words: Public Domain | Music: 2017 Warner-Tamertane Publishing Corp. | Ben Backus Music | Curb Congregation Songs | Fleauxmotion Music | Mike Curb Music | Modcast Music | STUDIO SBK PUBLISHING | Fleauxmatic Music | Kilns Music | Shaun Shankel Pub Designee | Method to the Madness | Shankel Songs | WC Music Corp

Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Verse 2

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Interlude

Oh oh

Verse 3

O come Thou Key of David come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

"Prepare the Way"

Words and Music by Jonny Bird and Nick Herbert; © Capitol CMG Genesis | Safe and Sound Music | Remaining portion is unaffiliated

Verse 1

Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way of the Lord
Come and worship Him
Let His Kingdom in *Repeat*

Chorus

Make straight in the desert
A highway for God
Each mountain made low
Each valley raised up
The Lord God Almighty
Will never be stopped
His glory will be revealed

Verse 2

Jesus Christ is the Lord
Jesus Christ is the Lord

Jesus Christ is the Lord
Come and worship Him
Let His Kingdom in *Repeat*

Chorus

Make straight in the desert
A highway for God
Each mountain made low
Each valley raised up
The Lord God Almighty
Will never be stopped
His glory will be revealed *Repeat*

Ending

Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way of the Lord
Come and worship Him
Prepare the way of the Lord

"Even So Come"

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates, and Jason Ingram © Publishing | Sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music | Openhands Music | So Essential Tunes | Lily Makes Music | Remaining portion is unaffiliated

Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Verse 2

There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come
God we wait You're coming soon
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace

C Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A 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.

C 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.

C Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

"Prepare the Way"

Words and Music by Bethany Wohrle, Chris Cleveland, Dante Bowe, Ethan Hulse and Justin Amundrud"; © 2019 Bethel Worship Publishing | Maverick City Publishing | Centricity Songs | Curb Songs | Be Essential Songs | Bethel Music Publishing

Verse 1

We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory
Spirit of God come do it again
Miracle-working power
Moving in signs and wonders
Spirit of God come do it again

Chorus

Prepare the way He's coming through
Ready or not our God's on the move
We're gonna see heaven on earth
Come Holy Spirit awaken Your church

Verse 2

God You're just getting started
A testimony of more to come
Spirit of God come do it in us
We join in the faith of heaven
And prophesy Your kingdom here on earth
Spirit of God come do it in us

Final Chorus

Prepare the way He's coming through
Ready or not our God's on the move
We're gonna see heaven on earth
Come Holy Spirit awaken Your church
We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory
Spirit of God come do it again

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

G Thanks be to God.

***SENDING MUSIC**

PRAISE TEAM

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 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

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)



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
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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

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