

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 21, 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-This service is streamed live on Facebook and will be posted to YouTube.

\*You are invited to stand

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### ∞ GATHERING ∞

**PRELUDE**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Bells of Good Shepherd**

*-Anna Laura Page*

**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.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”**

**ELW #265**

**\*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

- ☞ Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☩ **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND BLESSING

- ☞ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. ☩ **Amen.**

## ADVENT SONG      “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”      ELW #240 vs 4

### ☞ WORD ☞

## FIRST READING

- ☞ A reading from Isaiah.

*At conclusion of reading*

- ☞ The Word of the Lord.      ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

*Pew Bible, Page 623*

## PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 *(please read responsively)*

- ☩ 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.

- ☩ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

- ☩ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

- ☩ **You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

- ☩ 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.**

## SECOND READING

- ☞ A reading from Romans.

*At conclusion of reading*

- ☞ The Word of the Lord.      ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

**Romans 1:1-7**

*Pew Bible, Page 1024*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*GOSPEL READING

- Ⓟ The holy gospel according to Matthew.
- Ⓢ Glory to you, O Lord.
- Ⓛ The gospel of the Lord. Ⓢ Praise to you, O Christ

Matthew 1:18-25  
*Pew Bible, Page 877*

SERMON

Pastor Dave Helfrich

\*HYMN OF DAY                      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”                      ELW #257

\*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

### "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Chancel Choir

-Christina Rossetti

## \*OFFERING HYMN

### "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #181

## \*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.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you. **A** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts. **A** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **A** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right...praise your name and join their unending hymn
- P** 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.

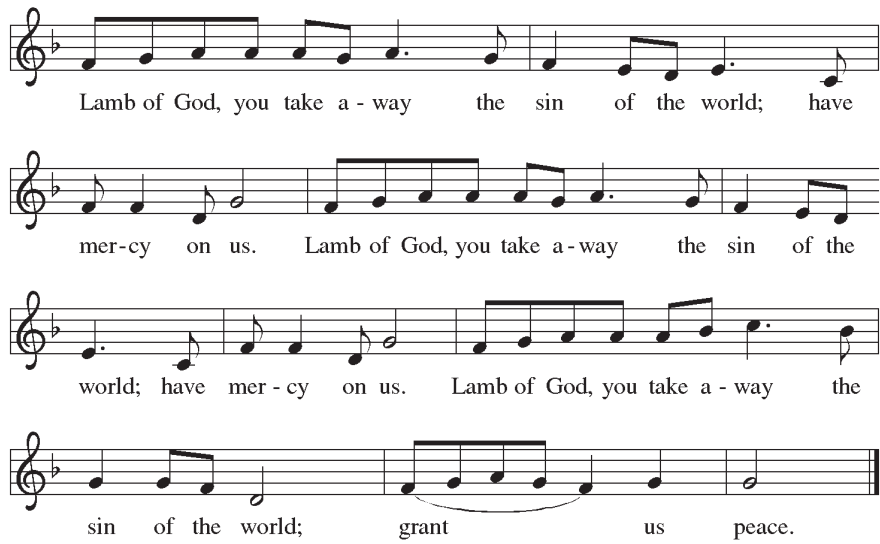
**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*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**



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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." The word "grant" is underlined in the original image.

**COMMUNION/COMMUNION HYMNS**

**“I am the Bread of Life”**

**ELW #485**

**“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”**

**ELW #490**

### **\*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 HYMN**

**“All Earth Is Hopeful”**

**ELW #266**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

- A** Go in peace. Keep Awake.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### **\*POSTLUDE**

**“Joy”**  
*-Wilbur Held*

**Anna Kate Peed**

# 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](https://www.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 Adult Bible studies last classes of year; All youth and adult classes resume January 4, 2026)

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

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