

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1st, 2024



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

# THE COMMON SERVICE

## ADVENT GATHERING RITE

*The choir will sing the refrain twice before the congregation enters.*

*The congregation continues repeating the refrain until after the final verse.*

### **Refrain**

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

### **Verses (solo)**

- 1 Show us unfailing love and...
- 2 God will raise a branch who will...
- 3 Let us wake from our sleep and...
- 4 For he comes in the God's name, oh...

### **Stand.**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

*The congregation enters with the first refrain.*

**Refrain**

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

**Verses (solo)**

1 Lord, have mercy upon us and...

2 Christ, have mercy upon us and...

3 Lord, have mercy upon us and...

*Prayer of the Day*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be seated.*

THE WORD

**First Lesson ----- Jeremiah 23:5–8**

Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth.

In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely.

This is his name by which he will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

So, mark my words, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no longer be said, “As surely as the LORD lives who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,” but, “as surely as the LORD lives who brought up the descendants of the house of Israel and led them out of a land in the north and from all the countries where I had driven them.”

Then they will dwell in their own land.

*Refrain*

**Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.**

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,\*  
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas\*  
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?\*

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,\*  
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

*Refrain*

Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?\*

The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?\*

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\* and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\* is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

**Second Lesson ----- Romans 13:11-14**

And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the

weapons of light. Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

*Verse of the Day*

*Psalm 87:5*

M: Alleluia. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and give us your salvation. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Matthew 21:1-9**

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, telling them, "Go to the village ahead of you. Immediately you will find a donkey tied there along with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The disciples went and did just as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their outer clothing on them, and he sat on it. A very large crowd spread their outer clothing on the road. Others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them out on the

road. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed kept shouting,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### *Nicene Creed*

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be seated.*

Hymn of the Day ----- Savior of the Nations, Come

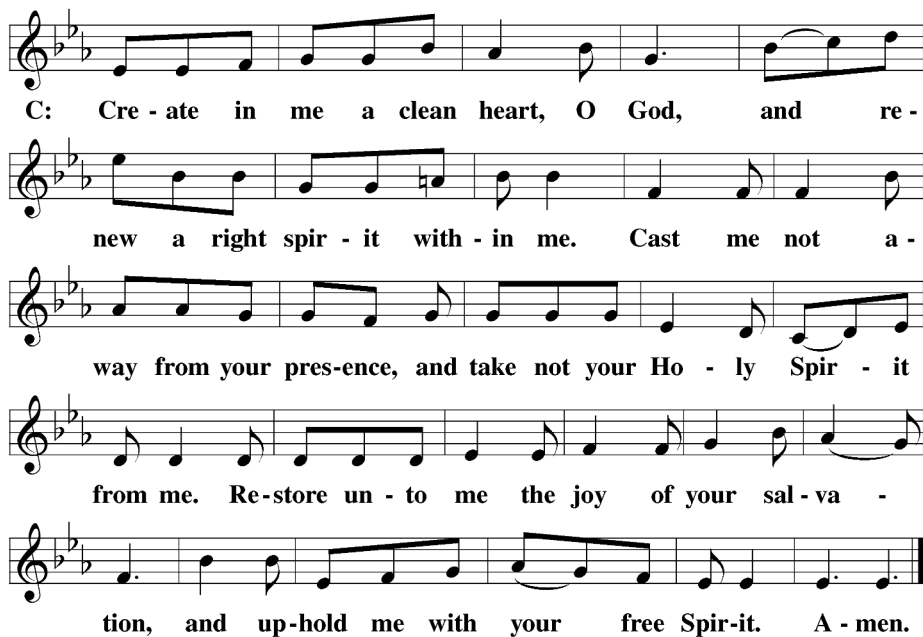
CW 2

Sermon ----- Matthew 21:1-9

*The Lord Makes His Entrance*

*Stand.*

*After the sermon, the congregation sings:*



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

Online giving option:

[mluther.org/give](http://mluther.org/give)



Offerings support the spread  
of the Gospel here and around the world.



*Prayer of the Church*

*The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “**Lord, have mercy.**”*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For unshamed hope in the Lord’s return, that sustained by His Holy Spirit, we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For pastors and congregations, that pastors would continually prepare the way for Jesus’ return in glory by preaching Law and Gospel; and that congregations would hear their words in faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our congregation, especially our catechumens, that we may live sober lives, casting off the deeds of darkness as we wait for the revealing of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For Christian homes, that God would defend the single, husbands and wives, and all children, clothing them with the armor of light, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For those who govern, that the Lord who rules with righteousness and justice, steadfast love and faithfulness, would grant the authorities of our land to act justly, so that His people might live in peace as they make known His love and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For [                     and] all who suffer in mind or body, that Christ, our Immanuel, would be with them in their trials and grant health and healing in accord with His perfect will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who commune, that the Lord, who humbly rode into Jerusalem for our salvation, would give to us hearts that confess our sin and rejoice in His presence in the Holy Communion for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Holy God, You declared that the days were coming when You would accomplish our salvation, and in Your time You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up for David. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer*

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



**C: And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



**C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Sanctus*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
 heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution*

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

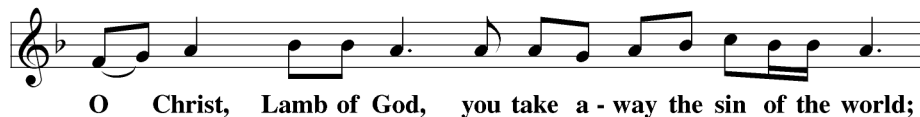
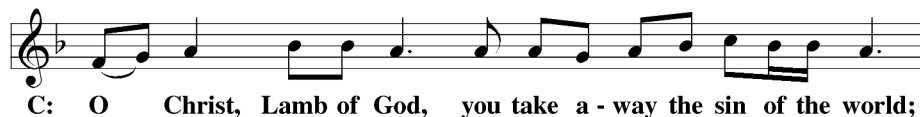
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

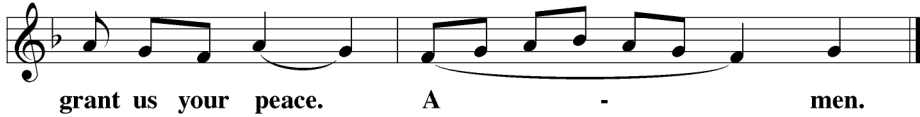
The peace of the Lord be with you always.



*O Christ, Lamb of God*

*Agnus Dei*





*Be seated.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:*

**Hymn ----- Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates**  
CW 4

1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
2. The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
3. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is he Who comes to set his people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
    Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
5. Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!  
Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.

Hymn ----- As Angels Joyed with One Accord

CW 5

1. As angels joyed with one accord Upon the advent of our Lord,  
So laud we all and bless the name Of him who from the Father came.
2. He came, not clothed in majesty Nor pow'r that suits his deity.  
In lowly state he walked till he In dying set us captives free.
3. This done, he soared to God's right hand,  
    Yet orphaned not his chosen band,  
For he, not bound in grace and pow'r,  
    Attends his own each day and hour.
4. In ev'ry age—let praise abound—He comes; we hear his voice resound.  
His glorious gospel does not cease To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.
5. He comes in water to the child And cleanses it, from birth defiled.  
This washing seals his pard'ning grace  
    And shows the Father's kindly face.
6. He comes to us in bread and wine To give himself—and gifts divine.  
Oh, praise him for this sacrament, Redeeming love's great testament!

7. Lift up your heads! All grief and pain Shall vanish when he comes again.  
Where we shall see him face to face, There joy alone shall have a place.

*After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:*

*Song of Simeon*

*Nunc Dimittis*

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- Come, O Precious Ransom, Come**

CW 8

1. Come, O precious Ransom, come,  
Only Hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to you all portals.  
Come, your beauty let us view;  
Anxiously we wait for you.
2. Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When you are my guest divine!



3. **My hosannas and my palms**  
Graciously receive, I pray you.  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay you,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, your merit through your grace.
  
4. **Hail, hosanna, David's Son!**  
Help, Lord; hear our supplication!  
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown  
Bring us blessing and salvation  
That forever we may sing  
Hail, hosanna! to our King.

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