



Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church
2903 STH 155 PO Box 130
Sayner, WI 54560 (715) 542-3701
www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

December 10, 2023

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 · Sayner, Wisconsin 54560 · 715-542-3701

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

MINSTERS: THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

William Wendorf, LLM 715-617-6477

Council:

President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Jack Carlson	612-889-1250
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Karen Carter	715-542-4049
Jackie Jungemann	630-450-2247
Sharon Rice	715-479-9336
Jeanne Kroll	715-542-2797
Bill Sima	715-542-4375

Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way. Everyone is welcome to Holy Communion at Shepherd of the Lakes. Come forward as ushers direct, receive the wafer in your hand and move to the wine which is served in the chalice or individual portions as you prefer. We offer grape juice as an alternative to wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available at your request from communion servers when you partake.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.

Go to the Church website at
www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

and look for the  symbol.

Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church
2903 State HWY 155 PO Box 130
Sayner, WI 54560
Or on the church website – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
You can donate through our PayPal account.
“Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together.”

Readings for December 17, 2023:

First Reading	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Psalm	126
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
Holy Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28

Give Witness and Rejoice

The third Sunday of Advent—also known as *Gaudete (rejoice)*—is one in which the church has rejoiced as the advent of the Messiah draws nearer. Whether or not you mark this Sunday with a pink candle on the wreath, the texts for the day echo this rejoicing, this “we’re almost there” excitement, in a multitude of ways. Isaiah couples images of a people restored with images of weddings and springtime and oak trees. The psalmist offers up images of a harvest festival, and Paul urges us to rejoice “always.”

John the Baptist, in his own way, calls for rejoicing by his acknowledgment that he is *not* what we are waiting for. John, like us, has a mission to bear witness, but when he says “I am not,” we hear a clear contrast to all the ways Jesus will identify himself with the Father: “I am the bread of life.” “I am the resurrection.” “I am the good shepherd.” All these things Jesus will be for God’s people, but John’s job is simply to bear witness to the light.

How do we bear witness, while still waiting? Or can joy in the midst of waiting be that very witness? In Advent we are not called to act as though we do not know how this story ends, as though Jesus’ birth and life, death and resurrection, are still before us. But we *do* know that sense of longing for God’s salvation to be fulfilled, and the temptation to imagine that we have to save ourselves, instead of waiting for God’s purposes to be worked out in God’s time. John reminds us that there can be joy in taking our proper place, pointing to Jesus without needing to *be* Jesus.

CHURCH SERVICES:

Regular Sunday morning services at 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School every Wednesday begins at 3:45 pm for ages 4 – Grade 7 (unless Northland Pines School District is out for Holidays). For more information, please call (715) 542-4049.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be every other Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Shepherd of the Lakes. We will have two studies each month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 3 pm, unless they occur during a holiday, such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. We will again be continuing with the Ray Vanderlaan video series.

ROCK MINISTRIES

From Jack Carlson:

As Treasurer of Northwoods Share in Eagle River, I work at community dinners at The Rock ministry in Eagle River every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening at 4:30. SOTL members are welcome to volunteer and attend as we support this mission as part of our benevolence funding at SOTL.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

No regular Council meeting in December!

BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER

Please consider giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Pink donation envelopes will be labeled and available in the Narthex.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY NEEDED

We are looking for someone to step forward and take over the altar flower ministry. Please contact Betsy Tarkowski if you are interested.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice led by Jennie Saltzgeber will begin on Tuesday, November 28th, at 4:15 pm. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Caroling to our shut-ins will be Saturday, December 23rd at 1 PM. Please sign up on the list on the table where the bulletins are placed. We will meet at church and carpool. We hope to finish around 4 and have a bite of supper at the Pub. Please join us! Questions? call (715) 542-4049

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?LILY HOUSE

The Mitten Tree is for guests at Lily House (shelter for Tri-county Council for Domestic Violence). If you wish, just take a mitten from the tree, purchase a \$20 gift card from Walmart, and return it to the basket at the base of the tree. The last day for this is December 17th. Questions? call (715) 542-4049

MEETING FOR SECOND VOTE TO DISAFFILIATE FROM ELCA

This very important meeting will be held after church on Sunday, December 17th. It will be conducted much the same as the first voting meeting that was held on September 10th. We encourage everyone to be a part of this decision – please join us!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service held here at 4 p.m. on December 24th.



PRAAYER REQUESTS

(Please note: “Current Issue” listings remain in the bulletin for three weeks and then are removed unless instructions are received to move that listing to the “ongoing health issues” list)

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Graham, Phyllis, Beth, Craig, David, Elaine, John, Ericka, Jon, Lloyd, Tina, Deb, Brian, Fred, Shelle, Barb, Bob, Terry, and Bob (Judy’s husband).

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Gus, Larry, Mary Lou, Brian, Melody, and Bob B.

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Brian, Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, Noah, and Dylan.

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

Pray for the families of those who have passed:

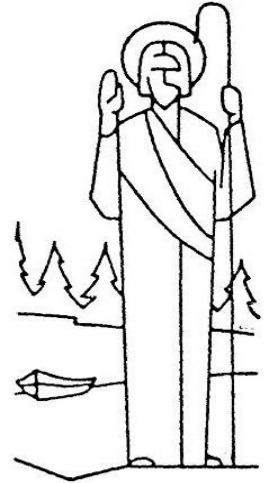
Please email Bill Wendorf at pastor@SOTLsayner.com or text to 715-617-6477 or email Jean Maines at treasurer@SOTLsayner.com if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list. Prayer requests are sent out via email.

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

Sayner, Wisconsin

Season of Advent

2nd Sunday of Advent December 10th, 2023



Greeting & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Second Candle of Advent

(Please remain seated)

In the wilderness of Jordan God sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of his son. We light this second candle, the candle of peace, to remind us of how the way was prepared for Jesus' coming. We pray that as Advent light increases, our own readiness may also increase.

(Lighting of the Second Advent Candle)

Let us pray.... Dear God, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace.

Peace in our hearts,

Peace in our homes,

Peace in our communities. Amen

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

V1-12/03
V2-12/10
V3-12/17
V4-12/24



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

INVOCATION

(Please remain seated.)

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted, and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

Silence for reflection.

God and Father of all:

We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of Jesus Christ † who came and will come again.

Amen

(Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel)

Gathering Song “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 Dialogue

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might;
and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;
his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

Hymn of Praise

V1-12/03
V2-12/10
V3-12/17
V4-12/24

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.....

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

(Please be seated)

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹**Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.**

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel *(Please stand as you are comfortable for the reading of the Gospel)*

The Holy Gospel According to....

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

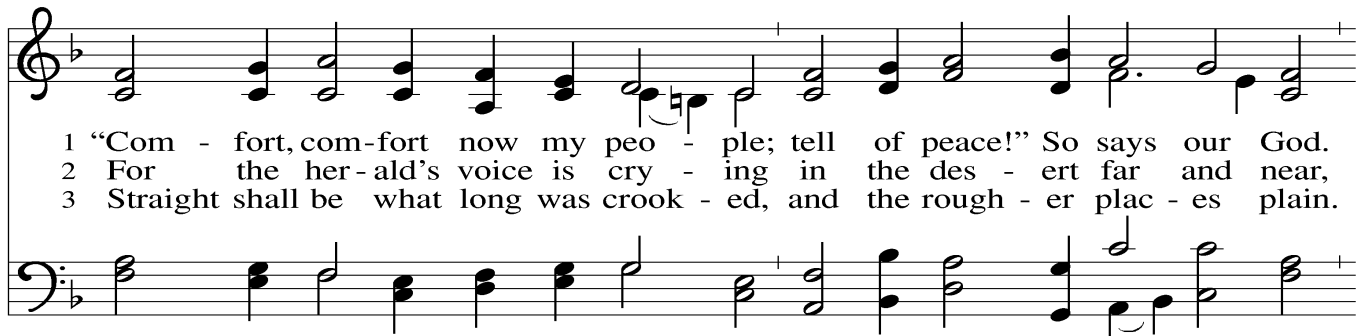
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

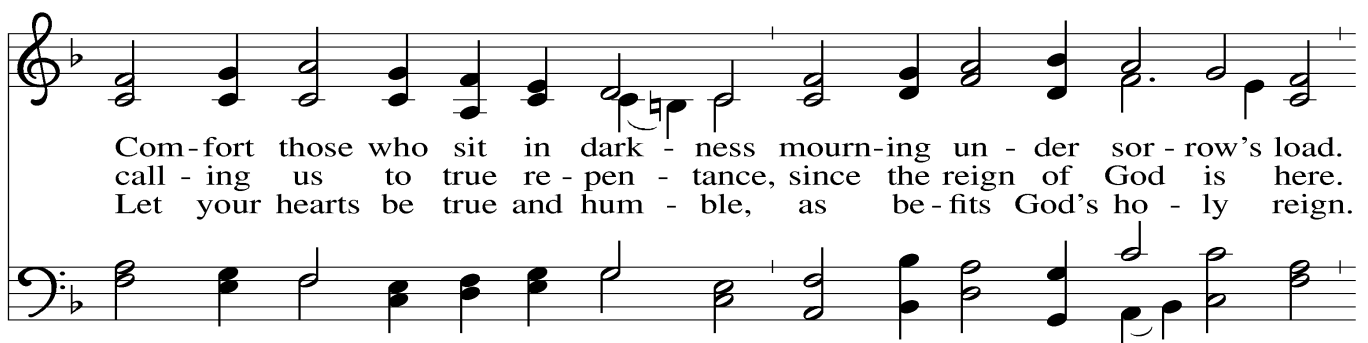
Sermon

Hymn of the Day *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”* ELW 256
(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Nicene Creed

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became Incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayers of the Church

The Peace

The Peace of the lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(I invite you to share the peace as you, and your neighbor, are comfortable.)

Offering

(We will receive our offering today in the traditional manner)

For those of you worshipping with us at home -You can mail your donations to:

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130

Sayner, WI 54560

Or on the church website - www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

You can donate through our PayPal account.

“Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together.”

As our offering is received and the Lord’s table is prepared,

Please join in singing “What Feast of Love” ELW 487

(Please stand as you are able as you begin singing verse "3")

What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving *(Responsively)*

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence, O God.

And we offer you our love.

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim your purpose for the world.

And we offer you our resources.

In this moment of giving, we hear your call, O Lord.

And offer you ourselves. Use us—all that we have and all that we are—to touch the world with the Christmas message. Amen!

Great Thanksgiving

May the God of Advent be with you.

And also with you.

People of Advent, lift up your hopes.

We lift them to the One who comes to share our lives with us.

People of hope, offer your thanksgiving to God.

Joy, praise, adoration are in our hearts and on our lips!

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever.

Amen!

Let us join our voices and pray with confidence the words that our Savior gave us:

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 the Table

*All are welcome to the Lord's table here. Simply come forward as the ushers direct, receive the host, and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the chalice, or by individual glass. For those wishing an alternative to the wine, there is grape juice clearly marked and provided, in both the individual glasses and the **small** chamber of the chalice. Gluten free hosts are also provided by simply asking your server as you come forward.*

(Children and others not wishing to commune are invited to come forward and receive a blessing.)

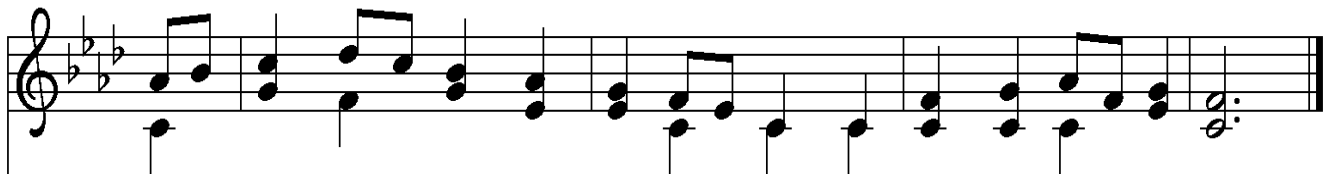
Distribution (Please be seated and come forward as the ushers direct)

Communion Songs

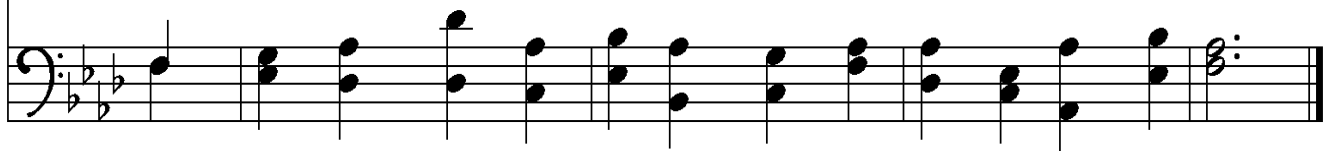
The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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Communion Blessing *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace,
now and forever.

Amen.

Communion Prayer *(Responsively)*

We thank you, Lord God,
...for breaking into our world, our lives, and our experience.

We thank you, O Christ,
...for this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.

We thank you, O Spirit,
**...for your presence and your challenge for us to become agents of God's
compassion.**

Amen!

Benediction

Receive the benediction. In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your
eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory.
And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be with you all
now and forever.

Amen.

(Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel)

Sending Hymn *“How Firm A Foundation” ELW 796*

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

How Firm a Foundation

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Firm a Foundation'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in four numbered parts, with the first part having four verses. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

Dismissal

Awake and anxiously anticipating the newborn Christ,
go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.
Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.**

Calendar for Week of December 11 – December 17, 2023

Tuesday	December 12, 2023	Bible Study	3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	December 12, 2023	Choir Practice	4:15 p.m.
Wednesday	December 13, 2023	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Thursday	December 14, 2023	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 17, 2023	Worship Service 3 rd Sunday in Advent	9:00 a.m.



Next Council Meeting:

No Council meeting in December!

Upcoming Events:

December 17th – Second vote on disaffiliation from the ELCA

December 23rd - Caroling at 1 pm

December 24th 4 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve service

*Check our calendar of events on the church website for
times and dates of events and worship services.*

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI

Instagram: [sotlsayner](https://www.instagram.com/sotlsayner)