

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Todd Bertani

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Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors



December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Ann Knipping, Accompanist

Prelude: "In the Bleak Midwinter" and

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" *arr. by Mark Hayes*

This time allows you to center your heart & mind on God's presence in worship.

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in **bold**. We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher to use during the service. Whether you are first time visitors or long time friends returning to share in worship with us, we are grateful for your presence today.*

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Welcome to Visitors, Friends and Members: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: "Will We Know Him" by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*Lit by: Pastor Todd*)

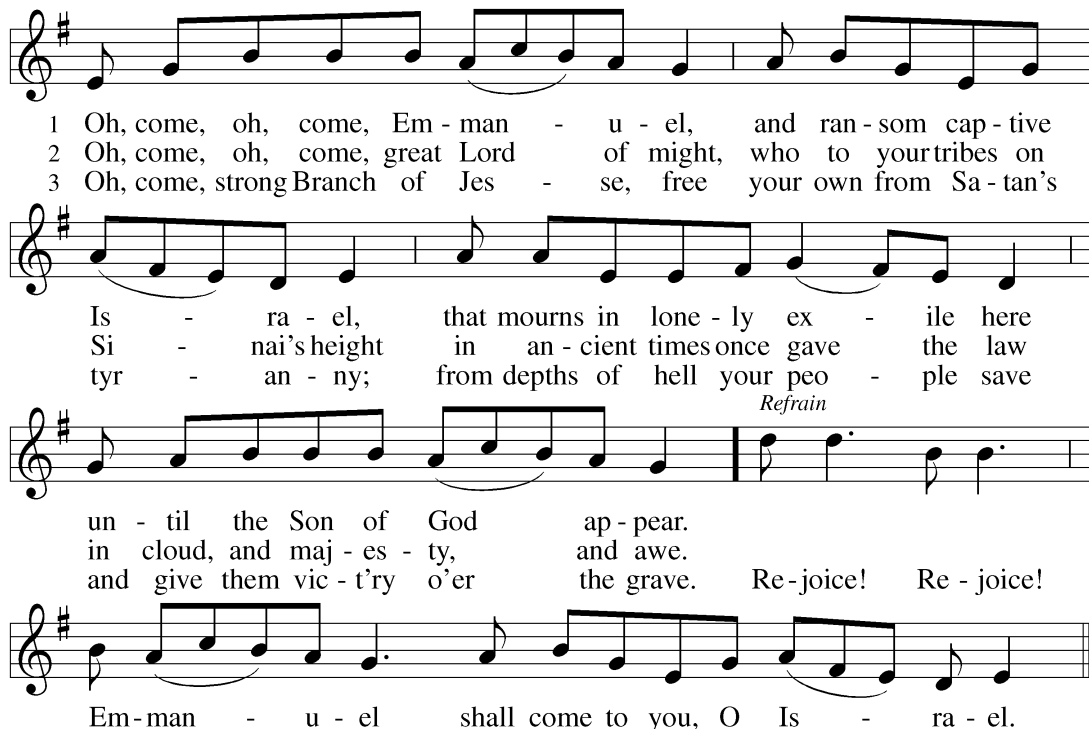


Advent Reading (*Read by: Jet Bertani*)

Last Sunday we lit the candle of PEACE. We light it and the candle of HOPE again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to judge the world and bring it everlasting peace. Today, we add the pink candle; the candle of JOY.

As three candles are lit, the congregation sings the Advent Hymn.

Advent Hymn “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Advent Prayer (Read by: Jet Bertani)

Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

Opening Litany

Everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters!
 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
Call upon him, while he is near;

For your thoughts are not our thoughts,

Your ways are not are ways, O God.

Your word shall accomplish that which you purpose, and succeed in the thing for which you sent it.

For that reason, we shall go out in joy and be led back in peace!

Amen!

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Opening Hymn: “Open Now They Gates of Beauty” Hymn 533

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;

where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.

Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

Greeting

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

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written for a vocal part (soprano or alto) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' (first system), 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' (second system), 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,' (third system), and 'Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.' (fourth system). The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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Hymn of Praise

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'Hymn of Praise'. It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the first line. The lyrics are: '1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth; yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth. Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame; ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name. Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done; yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.'

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of restoration,

Save us when we find ourselves spiritually thirsty. Help us walk your road with your purpose, strengthened by your living water. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Word Accomplishes God's Purpose

Isaiah 55:1-13

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in
rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for
David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and
commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do
not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy
One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our
God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says
the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not
return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and
sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my
word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for
which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and
the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field
shall clap their hands.


¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: John 4:[7-12] 13-14

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 4.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Hymn: "Fling Wide the Door" Hymn 259

1 Fling wide the door, un-bar the gate; the King of glo-ry's
2 He is the rock of our be-lief, the heart of mer-cy's

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen-tle self. His king-ly crown is ho-li-ness; his

Sav-ior of the world who brings his great sal-va-tion
scap-ter is his love-li-ness; he brings our sor-rows

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho-ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad-ly praise our king and friend, and

praise our God and Lord, Cre-a-tor, Spir-it, Word.
wor-ship him with song for sav-ing us from wrong.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostle's 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 the People

Each petition ends: "God of grace,"
Response is **"hear our prayer."**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

*Online
Giving*



Choir Selection: "Christmas Is Coming" *by Joel Raney*

Receiving of Gifts

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God,
**you pour out upon us your love and compassion through your Son,
Jesus. May these gifts be visible signs of your love in the world where
transformation and new life occur. Amen.**

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with You.
And also 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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.**



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

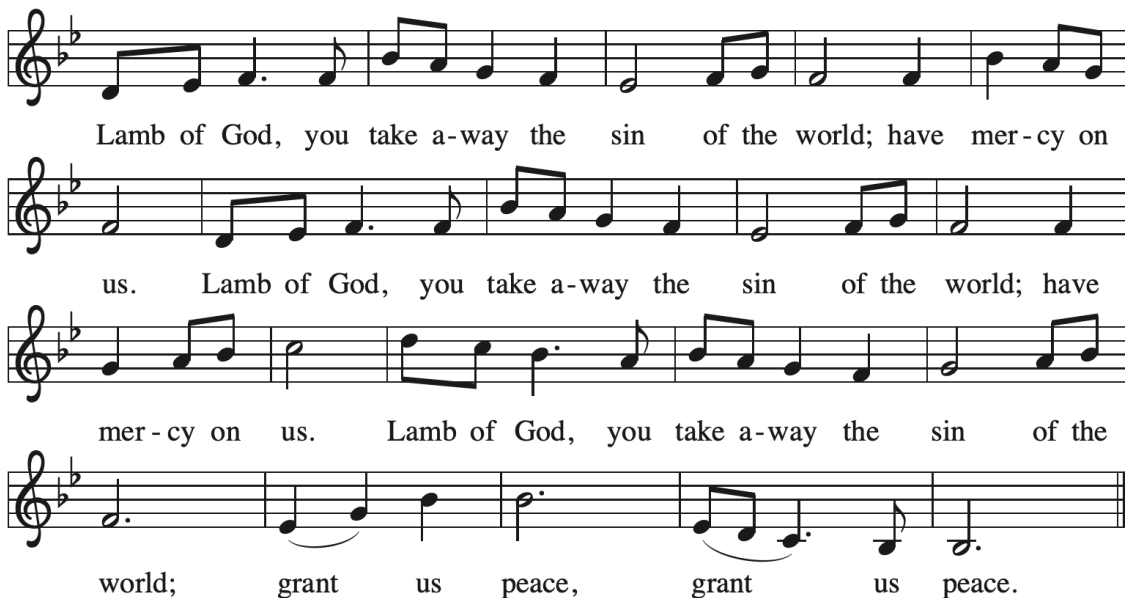
Invitation to Communion

We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.

*We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(Please be seated)

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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" Hymn 272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

**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.

Ministry Highlights

Opportunity to help a family

We were made aware of a family who needs infant formula. They live out of area and cannot utilize Crossroads. If you would like to help, they specifically need Enfamil, Gentlease 0-12 months. Any help you can give is much appreciated... please bring your purchase into the church office. Thank you.

Sunday: Dec 14

Good Gifts

LAST SUNDAY to BUY!

You may purchase all sorts of items that will help others; goats, cows, water, meals etc. Think Christmas gifts ... and stop by and check out the Good Gifts table.



Wednesday: Dec 17 Advent Study and Choir

2:00 p.m.—Advent Afternoon Study, here at the church or by Zoom.

3:00 P.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Thursday: Dec 18 Quilting and Council

1:00 p.m.—Quilters will meet.

1:00 p.m.—Council to meet in the Library.

Wednesday: Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a prelude of carols and the service at 5:00 p.m.

This will be a communion service. To ease the flow of communion, we will need **6 more communion assistants**, for five potential stations. Pastor will take the volunteers through the process so that everyone is comfortable.

Also, we need **2 greeters** and **3 more ushers**. We want our congregation and guests to feel welcomed and comfortable.

Please consider helping on this special evening. Helping those who may be unfamiliar with our church and/or service is a gift. Please help us extend the gift of hospitality and share the ultimate gift, Christ, with our neighbors.

Wednesday: Dec 24 Christmas Eve Offering

All offerings collected on this holy eve will be given to Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Services (EVICS.)

Blessing

God, the Source of glory,
God, the Word of life,
God, the Spirit of truth
+ bless you all, now and forever.

Amen.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Sending Hymn: “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” *Hymn 251*

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat.

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

Sending

Let us go out into the world, fed, renewed, and nourished by the Word made Flesh!

As we have been filled with the promised Holy Spirit, help us O God, to share what we have received. Let us reflect the light of Christ in our own lives.

With expectant hearts let us be on the lookout for where we find You for You are always longing, always yearning to enter into each breath, each heartbeat where we are reminded that You are already there.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" *arr. by Mark Hayes*



<i>Thank you for serving!</i>		
	<i>December 14</i>	<i>December 21</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Ann Knipping	Julie Varilek
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Greeter:</i>	Janet Keller & Randy Huber	OPEN
<i>Lector:</i>	Paula Stensvaag	Linda Schlitt
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jan Kilgore Larry Kilgore	Randy Huber Mike Wold
<i>Tellers:</i>	OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Mary Settje	OPEN
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	Paula Stensvaag Miriam Deffenbaugh OPEN	Roxy Hause OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Steve Peter	Robbi Telfer
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	Jean Anderson	Linda Schlitt
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Carolyn Jarmin	Stoltes & Arnolds
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Sallie Brackman	Sallie Brackman
<i>Calendar</i>		
<i>Today, Dec 14</i>	Good Gifts available for purchase—Last Sunday!	
<i>Wednesday, Dec 17</i>	8:00 am Sacred Space 2:00 pm Advent Afternoon 3:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	
<i>Thursday, Dec 18</i>	1:00 pm Quilters 1:00 pm COUNCIL MEETING	