



## **As We Gather      First Sunday in Advent      Dec. 1, 2024**

Though a full month remains before we turn our calendars to 2025, today we can wish a “happy new year” in the life of the church. The Advent season begins a new church year and is a time of preparation, as the Latin “Adventus” means an arrival or coming of someone. More than preparing for the coming of just anyone, here we prepare for our Savior. As we get hearts and minds ready for the Christmas crescendo to come celebrating Christ’s humble birth, we also remain prepared in this season and always as He promises to come again.

### **Mesquite Lutheran Church & Childcare Center**

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**Rev. David Constien**

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Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.

Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.

**A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones and hold any applause for acknowledgements during the announcements. Thank You.**

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION**



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily.  
(1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- \*Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- \*Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- \*Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- \*Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

#### **Please Note**

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,  
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.  
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

**PRELUDE** Pastorale - Sammartini

**WELCOME**

**PREPARATION**

**INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** *John 1:5,9; Genesis 3:15; Psalm 33:20–22*

**P** Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophesy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

**C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

**P** Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: “Our soul waits for the Lord;

**C** **He is our help and our shield.**

**P** For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

**C** **Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.”**

*The first Advent candle is lit.*

**HYMN #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** *sts. 1, 2*

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

(Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain)

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*1 John 1:8–9; Jeremiah 33:14,16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13; Luke 21:28*

- P** As we begin the Advent season—a time of preparation for the coming of our Savior and a time of pondering God’s great love for us given in His Son—we also prepare ourselves to come before Him in humility and with honesty. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, “The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made. . . . And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”
- C** **We confess we have not rightly rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We have sought our own rightness instead of the Lord’s righteousness. Forgive us.**
- P** Paul prays, “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus.”
- C** **We confess our hearts are full of blame and unholiness. Our love has been misguided and our actions have been self-serving. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.**
- P** As Jesus speaks of the time of His return, He calls His followers to “straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
- C** **We confess we have not remained ready for Your return, nor realized time is short for the work You’ve called us to do. We have prioritized other matters instead of Your Word, relied on other things instead of Your presence, and in our thoughts, words, and actions have chosen to live our way instead of by Your commands. Forgive us.**
- P** The Lord is our righteousness. He alone establishes hearts blameless in holiness at His coming. Redemption draws near. We are declared righteous, blameless,

and redeemed because of the living, dying, and rising of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained 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.

## WORD

**INTROIT** *Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

**P** Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C** **righteous and having salvation.**

**P** To You, O LORD,

**C** **I lift up my soul.**

**P** O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

**C** **let not my enemies exult over me.**

**P** Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

**C** **they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

**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.**

**P** Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C** **righteous and having salvation.**

## KYRIE

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING     **Jeremiah 33:14–16**

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING     **1 Thessalonians 3:9–13**

“What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE     *Psalm 24:7*

- P** Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
- C** that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:25–36**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said: “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY #332 “Savior Of The Nations, Come”**

### **SERMON “One Of Those Days” Jeremiah 33:14-16**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs....[*petitions...*]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- G** **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY *LSB 805*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. men.**

(Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Text: Public domain)

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was promised after the fall to crush the serpent's head, who was prophesied through the prophets You called, who when the time was right came into this world in our flesh, and who sacrificed His perfect and blameless body that our hearts may be established holy and blameless through Him as we await His coming again. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## SANCTUS *LSB 178*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:  
Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### LORD’S PRAYER

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.**

### PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI *LSB 163*

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS



### “Broken for Me”

*Refrain:* Broken for me, broken for you.  
The body of Jesus, broken for you.

He offered His body, He poured out His soul.  
Jesus was broken, that we might be whole. *Refrain*

Come to My table and with Me dine.  
Eat of My bread and drink of My wine. *Refrain*

This is My body, given for you.  
Eat it remembering I died for you. *Refrain*

This is My blood I shed for you.  
For your forgiveness, making you new. *Refrain*

*(Mustard Seed Music 1978 CCLI 20040467)*

#547 The Lamb #623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray #744 Amazing Grace

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING SENTENCES *John 1:5, 9*

**P** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**C** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN “Shine On Us” Michael & Deborah Smith

Pastor:(*sung*) “Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us....  
Let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us.”

Cong:(*sung*) “Lord, let Your love, love without end come over us.  
Lord, let Your love, love without end come over us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life  
To find our way In the darkest night.  
Let Your love come over us.”

Pastor only: Let Your light shine on us.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

Altar flowers today are given by Julie & John Kuran  
To the Glory of God

Reader Today: Gail Snow      Attendance Lat Sunday: 96

PRAYER LIST: Judy Duncker, surg. recov.; Jim Hinson, recov.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun. Dec. 1 **11:30 a.m. OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SETUP**

Sun. Dec. 1 **3:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)**

Mon. Dec. 2 10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study

Tue. Dec. 3 10:30 a.m. Preschool Chapel

Wed. Dec. 4 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast at the Eureka, Mason Street Courtyard**

**Wed. Dec. 4 12:00 p.m. Mid-week Advent Worship, soup luncheon following**

Thur. Dec. 5 10:30 a.m. Jesus Time

Thur. Dec. 5 10:30 a.m. Support Group

Thur. Dec. 5 3:00 p.m. CHOIR

Sat. Dec. 7 2:30 p.m. Women’s Advent By Candlelight Tea

Sun. Dec. 8 **8:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:00 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Fellowship.**

**ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICES** will be on **Wednesdays at 12:00 noon**, with a **soup luncheon** following in the fellowship hall. There is a soup cook sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. There will be three Wednesday services and lunches, **Dec. 4, 11 and 18**.

**ALL ARE WELCOME** to join us for **BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP**, whether you are a couple or a single person. We meet the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 3:00 pm** in the **fellowship hall**. We are currently studying the book of James. If interested, please **contact Dave or Jan Hinrichsen**. **Dave - 402-699-3543 Jan – 402-699-4744**.

**HELPING HANDS** ministry at MLC coordinates a few meals to be delivered to those in temporary need because of illness or recovery from surgery/hospitalization. If you find yourself with such need, place your name and number on a card in the Helping Hands box on the table in the narthex or **contact Jan Hinrichsen at 402-699-4744**. **Volunteers** willing to help out and provide a meal as needed can contact Jan.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS** will be offered at MLC **beginning Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** Learn how to pay off debt, save more money, and build wealth. With this 9-week course there is opportunity to change your financial trajectory. **Registration fee: \$50.00** for materials. Classes last typically 1.5 hours. **Sign up by Dec. 26, 2024. Sign up by contacting Dave Hinrichsen [hinrichsen57@gmail.com](mailto:hinrichsen57@gmail.com)** or 402-699-3543.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Dec. 1 Ann Scott	Dec. 1 Harold Sersland	Dec. 3 Gayle Malwitz
Dec. 5 Christine Fourman	Dec. 8 Wendy Fullmer	Dec. 9 Lori Gnacinski
Dec. 17 Crystal Camara	Dec. 18 Rita Owens	Dec. 25 Diane Herman

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Dec. 12 David & Lori Gnacinski	Dec. 18 Scott & Sheri Asay
Dec. 23 Christine & Ed Fourman	Dec. 28 Ernie & Judy Duncker

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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