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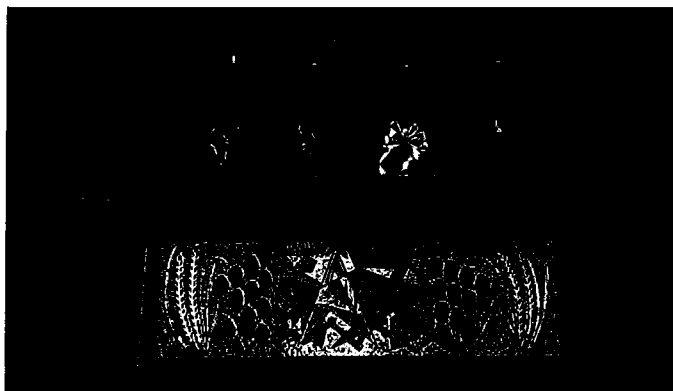
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## **WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN**

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

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First Lutheran Church  
300 Melmore Street  
Tiffin, Ohio

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

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*PRELUDE*

*VENI EMMANUEL*

*Jason Krug*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Bells of Praise*

Please stand as you are able

## ***ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP***

L: November ends. December begins.

C: **We find our beginning and our ending in God.**

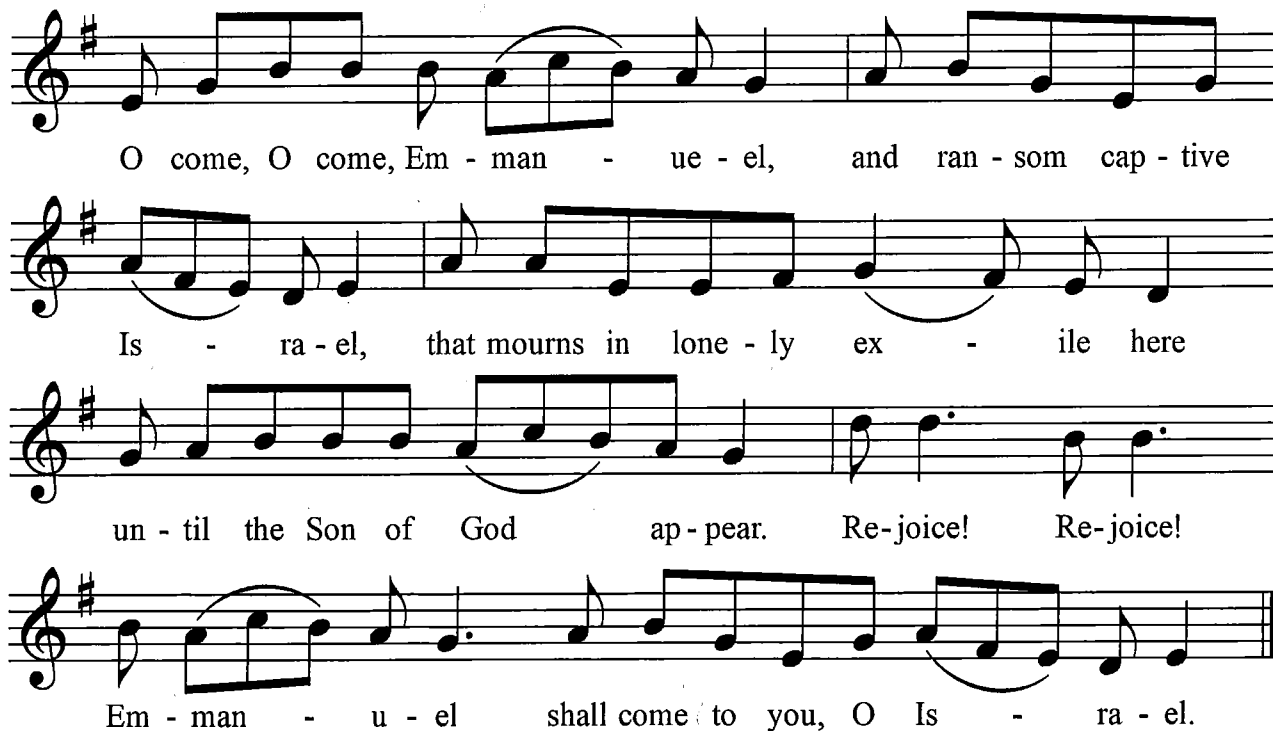
L: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

C: **For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.**

L: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

C: **God who is the Alpha and the Omega,  
the beginning and the end,  
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.**

## ***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE***



O come, O come, Em - man - ue - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

L: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

C: **Wake us up to your coming.**

P: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.  
O Emmanuel,

C: **Wake us up to your coming.**

L: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform  
minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,

C: **Wake us up to your coming.**

P: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate  
dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel,

C: **Wake us up to your coming.**

## *WREATH LIGHTING*



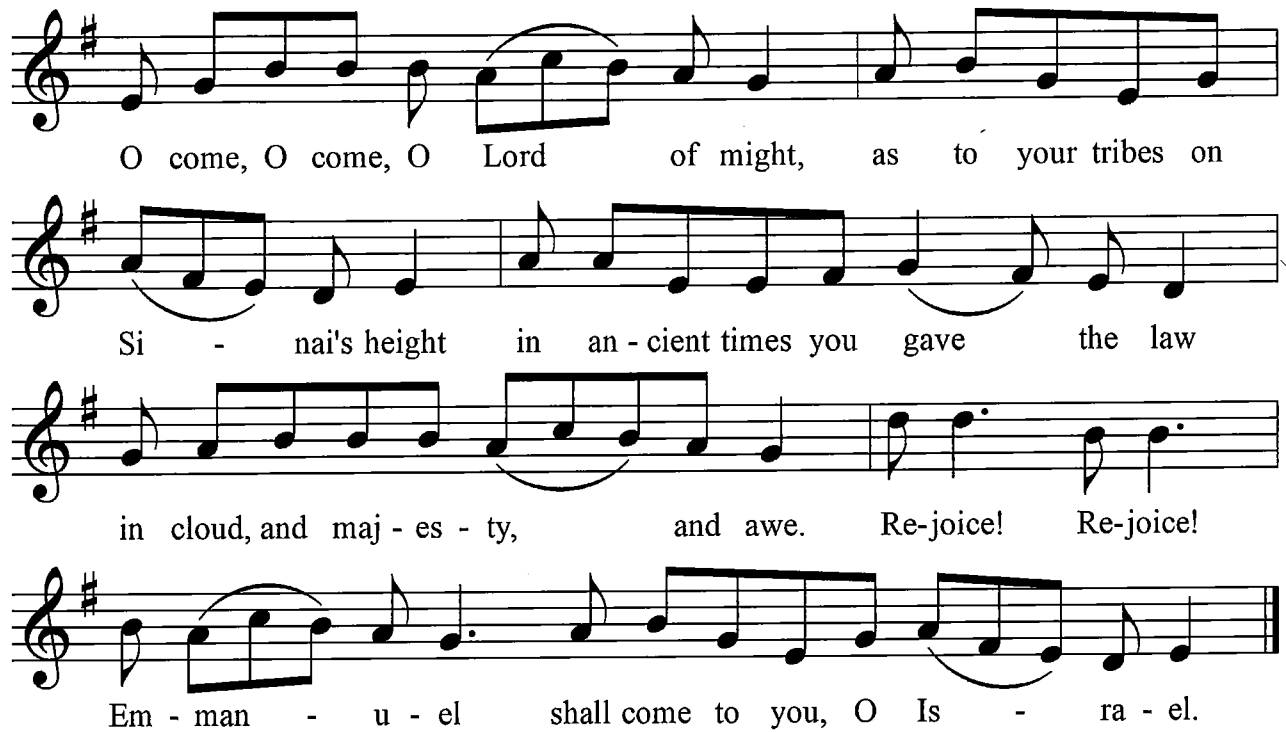
Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va-tion to Is-ra-el, God fu - fills the prom-ise.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose  
flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

C: **Amen.**



O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

**P:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

*Please be seated*

## ***A READING FROM JEREMIAH***

***33:14-16***

**R:** A reading from Jeremiah the 33rd chapter:

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**R:** Word of God, Word of Life!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# A READING FROM I THESSALONIANS

3:9-13

R: A reading from I Thessalonians the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL INTRODUCTION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*After the congregation sings the Alleluia, the Cantor will sing the verse.  
The congregation will sing the Alleluia a second time.*

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

21:25-36

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:]<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.<sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.<sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.<sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees;<sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.<sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.<sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.<sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,<sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.<sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



*Please be seated*

## ***TODAY'S REFLECTION***

*Reverend Chris Dittmar*

*Creator of the Stars of Night*



ALL: 1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
 CANTOR: 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
 MEN: 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
 WOMEN: 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
 ALL: 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.  
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV  
 Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## ***CONFESSION OF FAITH***

L: In Christ, we have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: 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.**

*You are invited to kneel or remain seated as you are able*

## ***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***

L: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*We respond to each prayer petition:*

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**



## ***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS***

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another:

*A time of silence and reflection*

P: Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

P: May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

## ***SHARING OF THE PEACE***

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace! May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

*Please be seated*

## ***KIND REMINDER***

*As we prepare for the offering, please fill out a blue Fellowship card for you and your family. Cards are located in the pew rack. Once completed, place the card in the offering plate. This is a great way to let us know you are here, and to share any prayers concerns.*

## ***OFFERING AND BELLS OF PRAISE***

BESANÇON

*People, Look East*

Linda R. Lamb

## *OFFERTORY PRAYER*

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent  
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## *GREAT THANKSGIVING*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## *ADVENT PREFACE*

P: 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.

## *SANCTUS*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

## ***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER***

P: 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.

## ***LORD'S PRAYER***

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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.**

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

† You may commune in your pews.

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

Pastor will share a blessing and all communing in-place will commune together.

† You may come to the Table, where both Bread and Wine will be distributed.

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

*At this time, we share in taking the bread and wine as we feast on the body and blood of Christ. All are welcome to the Table of the Lord!*

### **AGNUS DEI**



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 KING SHALL COME



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phunt 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

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
 strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
 C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.  
 Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.  
 We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.  
 We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.  
 Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.  
 C: Amen.

# *CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER*

**C:** Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.  
We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years,  
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.  
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing, bless the changes that  
are before us, bless our call process and the pastoral leaders who will  
shepherd us through this time of transition. We thank you now for the  
wisdom you will show us as we align with your will, and servant or  
servants you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time. Help  
us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future. In his  
name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord, Amen.

## *BLESSING*

**P:** God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.



FLING WIDE THE DOOR



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## ***SENDING***

P: Go in peace.

L: Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***POSTLUDE***

*CONSOLATION*

*The King Shall Come*

*Michael Burkhardt*