

SEASON OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025 9:30am

GATHERING

Prelude

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.

Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within: seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!

Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace (Please remember to fill out an attendance sheet) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.



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.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob,come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading

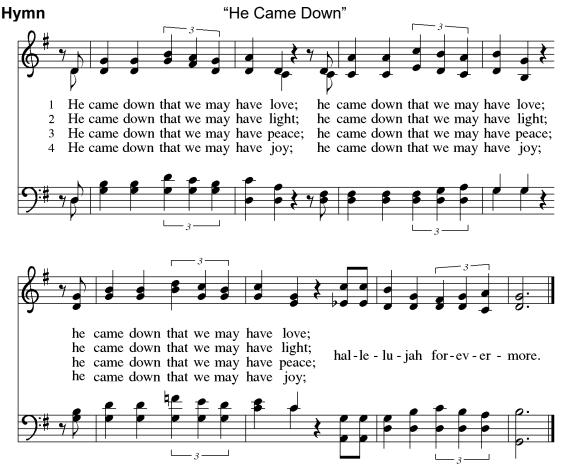
Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Children's Time



Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song: "O Come Divine Messiah"

O come divine Messiah The world is longing for the day When hope shall sing its triumph And sadness flies away

Pre-Chorus

Dear Savior come to tired earth And bring the grace of dawn Dispel the night with Thy face Come Messiah come

Chorus

O come divine Messiah come, O come divine Messiah come

O Thou whom nations sigh for Whom priest and prophet long foretold Does break the captive fetters And brings the wayward home

Pre-Chorus ~ Chorus

Bridge

There is hope today that God Himself
Might shine upon our souls and save
Unto you a Savior comes and ev'rything will change
Ev'rything will change (REPEAT) Chorus 2X

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven. and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

God of grace, hear our prayer.

MEAL

Offering/Ministry Opportunities/Invitation to Communion



Offering Prayer

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

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.



Blessing at the Table

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.**

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.

da - nos

grant us

tu

paz,

your peace,

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Distribution of Holy Communion



da - nos

grant us

tu

paz.

your peace.

Communion Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. **Refrain**

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **Refrain**

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **Refrain**

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;

O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. **Refrain**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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.

Blessing



"My Lord What a Morning"



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Dismissal

As people of the Good Shepherd ...

We are a Christian community rooted in grace, connected through inclusive worship and fellowship.

Together

We embrace and value all people and serve our broader community with compassion.

Go in peace. Keep Awake.

Thanks be to God.

Photo Directory Update

We are off to a great start! Over 50 families have said "cheese!" so far. We added photoshoots on December 14th & 21st. We want to catch all the college kids home for the Holidays. Sign up in the foyer.

November Mission of the Month – Veterans Housing Coalition

The Veterans & Community Housing Coalition (VCHC) provides safe housing and comprehensive support services to homeless military veterans and their families, advocates for the needs and rights of all veterans, and offers affordable housing opportunities for low-income individuals and families.

Emergency Preparedness Task Force

The Health Cabinet team has been updating its emergency procedure program. We welcome volunteers to help brain-bust new ideas. Please consider joining us at our next meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at 5:30 pm.

Social Ministry News

The City Mission toy drive is in full swing! In Christmas 2024 the store served 300 families providing gifts for almost 800 children!!

Thanks to Good Shepherd members we were able to donate \$406.08 to Joan Nicole Prince Home, \$336.42 to Camp Erin/Wave Riders and \$279.53 to Global Refuge this year.

Blessing Box

Please consider donating: canned chicken, beans, oatmeal packets, pasta sauce, canned fruit, laundry detergent, baby supplies/formula, tea/coffee, pancake supplies, shampoo/conditioner, paper towels, tooth care, dish soap.

Albany Maritime Ministry

Good Shepherd has generously supported Albany Maritime Ministry with our Christmas packages. They are gathering for Beer and Carols on Monday, December 5th, 5-8pm at the Warbler Brewery in Delmar as a fundraiser.

Today's altar flowers were donated by Kurt & Donna Andress in celebration of their 34th Anniversary.



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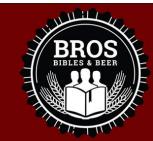


We join a worldwide Christmas at Sea program that collects gifts for Seafarers at the Port of Albany.

Look for the box in the Fellowship Hall - please bring in by December 14th.

We will also need shoe boxes and wrapping paper to pack.

- Something local to Albany or New York, such as an I ▼ NY trinket, a postcard, or a neat photograph you've taken
- Warm clothing: knit cap or gloves, work gloves, warm socks, sweatshirt (M, L, or XL)
- Writing paper, envelopes, pencils, pens
- Books, puzzles, word search / sudoku, playing cards
- Toiletries: razor/shaving cream/ aftershave, toothbrush/toothpaste/ floss, deodorant/fragrant soap (like Irish Spring®), brush or comb, lotion
- · "AA"/"AAA" batteries
- NO CANDY OR OTHER FOOD, PLEASE



Monday, December 1st, 7 -8 pm Bros, Bibles & Beer Event Pizza Works 720 Saratoga Rd., Burnt Hills

Guys are invited to this casual bible event discussion over your favorite beer or soft drink.









