



“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Joyful Expectation of our Lord’s Return in Glory

December 21st , Year of our Lord 2025

The Reverend William Foy, Pastor

About the cover art: Although this painting is similar to that of last week, notice that there are some important differences. John is still standing upon the Rock however rather than a lamb, see the baby boy, the Incarnate Christ, He is the Rock. It is upon Him that we stand; it is upon Him that we are built. He is the only sure foundation. Christ Jesus is also seen preparing to preach, maybe the Sermon on the Mount, maybe having just come forth from the tomb. And the people are certainly European as was the painter. But this also reminds us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people, all places, and throughout time.

Order of Worship – Divine Service - Setting 3

Preludes -

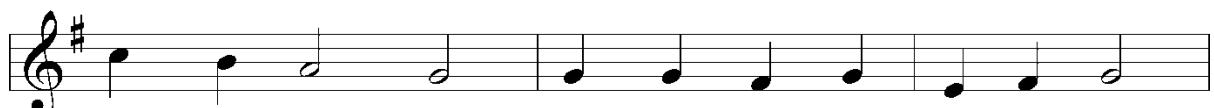
Time for silent prayer and preparation for confession

Please rise and face the procession turning to the altar when the celebrant has passed by.

Procession Hymn- Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Please Kneel/Stand

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \ddagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Please Stand

Service of the Word

Introit (*Congregation chants the bold stanzas*)



Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | Righteousness;
let the earth open, that Salvation and Righteousness may | bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

P The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims His | handiwork.

C Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end | of the world.*
In them He has set a tent | for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his |
chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

P Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its
circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | Righteousness;
let the earth open, that Salvation and Righteousness may
| bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

Kyrie

186



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent
Salutation**

189



The Lord be with you.



And with thy spirit.

Collect of the Day – Prayed by Pastor

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

The Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to Him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And whoever will not listen to My words that He shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

Gradual - Chanted by the cantor

The LORD is near to all who | call on Him,*

to all who call on | Him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*

and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and | ever.

The Epistle:

Philippians 4:4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel:

John 1:19–28

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands One you do not know, even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Nicene Creed

191

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \ddagger of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring
from on high, And cheer us
by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds
of night, And death's dark
shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations,
bind In one the hearts of all
mankind; Bid Thou our sad
divisions cease, And be
Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain

Sermon

Offering is received

Please rise.

Offertory

192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Reception of New Member

Prayer of the Church – *Prayed by Pastor*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spirit.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up unto the Lord.



P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface – Chanted by the Pastor

Sanctus

195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Verba - The Words Instituting the Lord's Supper
The Words of Our Lord

197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

What we believe: The Sacrament of the Altar

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently communicant members in good standing at Prince of Peace. If you have never received Holy Communion at Prince of Peace from Pastor Foy, please see him before you commune. Thank you

Distribution

Before coming to the Sacrament

O Lord, who art Thou and who am I that I should place Thee in the foul sewer of my body and soul. A thousand years of tears would not make me worthy of once receiving this Blessed Sacrament. Who am I, wretched man, who daily sins, continues without amendment, and approaches in sin. But Thy mercy is infinitely greater than my misery, therefore trusting in Thee, I presume to approach. Amen.

Before receiving Christ's Body

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof; but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed. Matt.8:8

Before receiving Christ's Blood

What shall I render to the Lord, for all His benefits to me? I will take up the cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. Ps.116:13

After receiving the Sacrament

I live, and yet not I, but Christ lives in me. (Gal.2:20)

What we have received with our mouths, O Lord, let us keep with faithful hearts, that this Gift given us in earthly time may bring us to eternal salvation. Amen.

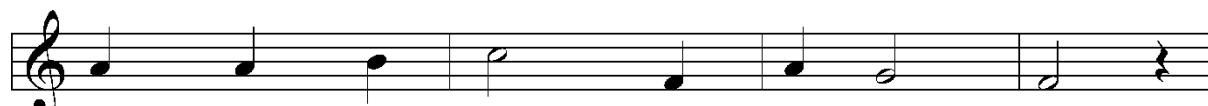
Distribution Hymns - *Please be seated.*

O Savior, rend the heavens wide

355



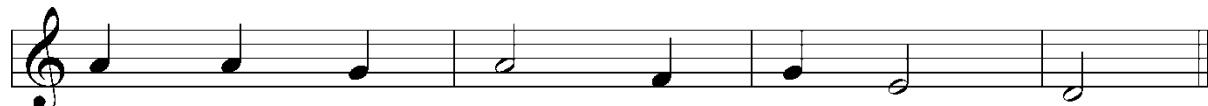
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;
4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
5 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Sun,



Come down, come down with mighty - y stride;
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
When will You come with com - fort strong?
When will our hearts be - hold Your dawn?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;
O Sun, a - rise; with - out Your light



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon
us lies; Grim death looms
fierce before our eyes. O
come, lead us with mighty
hand From exile to our
promised land.

7 There shall we all our
praises bring And sing to
You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You
and adore Forever and
forevermore.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

359



From ten - der stem hath
The rose I have in
With sweet-ness fills the
Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er

saith our God; "Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness, Mourning
 dark mis-deed; All that well de-served His an-ger He no
 far and near, Call-ing sin-ners to re-pen-tance, Since the
 plac-es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, As be-

'neath their sor-rows' load. Speak ye to Je-ru-sa-lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf-fered man-y a day,
 King-dom now is here. O that warn-ing cry o-beay!
 fits His ho-ly reign. For the glo-ry of the Lord

Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a-way; God will change her
 Now pre-pare for God a-way; Let the val-leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a-broad, And all flesh shall

sins I cov-er And her war-fare now is o-ver."
 pin-ing sad-ness In-to ev-er-spring-ing glad-ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to-ken That His Word is nev-er bro-ken.

Please rise.

Nunc Dimittis

199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy

people Is - - - - - rael. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

200

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
 and His mercy endureth for - ev - - er.

Post-Communion Collect

201

Salutation and Benedicamus

201

The Lord be with you.
 And with thy spir - - it.
 Bless we the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Benediction

202

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and \ddagger give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please face the procession until the celebrant has passed and then face back towards the altar.

Closing Hymn— Let the earth now praise the Lord

352

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's
 head That, set free from
 doubt and dread, I may
 cling to You in faith, Safely
 kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come
 again As the glorious king
 to reign, I with joy will see

Your face, Freely ransomed
by Your grace.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).

Altar Flowers The Altar flowers are Given to the Glory of God in Thanksgiving for His many blessing in loving memory of Elvin and Marilyn Schultz our G-Grandpa, G-Grandma, Grandpa, Grandma, Dad and Mom, Veda, Wyatt, Aaron, Josh, Alexandrea, Tim, Bonnie and Joann

January Potluck: Please join us for our monthly potluck January 4th following our Worship Service. PLEASE bring a dish to share. Tableware and beverages will be provided

Welcome our Newest Member: Please welcome Brenda Farris who has joined us by confession of faith after going through catechesis with pastor for several weeks. What a joy that the Lord adds frequently to our family. Pastor

Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. We will continue to collect items for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care kits throughout the year. A donation box is located in the office across from the counters office. Items needed new dark colored bath towels, nail clippers, tooth brushes, bars of bath soap & combs. Items may be placed in the box located in Pastor's former office off the Narthex.

Seminary Gift Emporium We will also continue to collect money for gift cards for the Seminary Gift Emporium throughout the year. A jar is located by the flower chart in the Narthex. Even an occasional dollar would help purchase gift cards for the Seminary Students.

Valpo Homeless Shelter Meal: The shelter provides 3 meals for 50+ people in need everyday. Prince of Peace will deliver a meal January 17th. A sign-up sheet of items needed is located in the foyer. Thank you for giving a meal for those in need.

Seminary Clothing Co-op: We are accepting clothing for the Ft Wayne Seminary clothing coop. Please bring clothing bagged and in good condition with no stains or tears for men, women and children. Socks and undergarments must be new and in original package. We will get everything delivered clothing co-op Thank you.

Eggs for sale: There are eggs this week. PLEASE ONLY TAKE 1! They are donated to the ladies guild to sell for LWML. Sorry, they are not free. Please give at least \$2 for a dozen into the box on the kitchen counter. Pastor

SUNDAY - Bible Study: We are studying the 2nd Epistle of St. Peter after the Divine Service, in the Parish Hall. We begin at 10:45 Pastor

For the coming Week

Organist: Jennifer Symer **Elders:** Josh, Carl, Jeff, Paul

Altar Guild Servers: Cheryl, Deb, Cathy, Helen

Morning Divine Service: Wednesday 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Bible Study: Wednesday 11:45 a.m.

Bethesda Services: Wednesday 4:00 pm

Veterans: As requested with pastor.

PRAYERS FOR:

All who mourn the loss of loved ones especially those martyred

PRAYER FOR SHUT-INS: Mike Foy, Darlene McDonald, Marilyn Skinner, Jim & Lois Brown, Ruth Koeppen

THOSE IN THE MILITARY: Craig McCall, Seneca Newkirk

PRAYER FOR HEALING:

Bonnie Broviak- Recovery

Jim Brown- Remission

Robert Sprout - Cancer

Greg Mohlke – Kidney Issues

Ellen Strutz – Cancer

Mary Cruz – ALS

Betty Sut - Cancer

Marilyn Skinner – Cancer

Lillie Johnston – Alzheimers

Lois Brown – Parkinsons

Pete Sut – Cancer

Jerry Weingarden – Cancer

Bob Granzow – Dr Care

Mamie Raschke – Rehab

Cheryl Wybrew – Hip Replacement

Pat Maile – Dr Care

Dave McCall – Dr Care

Mike Arnold - Cancer

Bill Lomas – Lung issues

Jo Thompson – Cancer

Josh Hardesty - Rehab

Ginny Fox - Cancer

Carol Becker – Dr Care

Nancy McIntosh - Cancer

Florence Farris – Cancer

Baron Edmiston – Cancer

Paula Rukavina – Cancer

Mary Jo Stanley – Heart & Lung

Micah McKay – Recovery

Please give the Church Office updates Thank you Pastor

THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD

THOSE CELEBRATING BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Symer 12/23 Luke Fagan 12/23

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Zoe Olivares 12/21 Troy Peterson 12/27

THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

"The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together." - St. John Chrysostom, Homily 20 on Eph. 5

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Christmas Eve:

8:30 pm candlelight with Holy Communion

Christmas Day:

Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Day **10:00 am**

Chrismon Advent 4

Jn 1.19-28

It was John's role in those turbulent times to call men to repentance, to point out that our sins have alienated us from our Creator and that all of us are in desperate need of reconciliation.



Today bells sound forth the sound of the church and the call of God. They are an icon of the voice of God calling into the world and into the hearts of His people to come, to come and receive God's gifts, to come and live from His proffered mercy, to come and taste the goodness of the Lord and enjoy His unending rest.

May the Holy Spirit use the Church bell as He uses so many other things to call

His lost and wondering children to come home.