



1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK
(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Assistant Minister = Blue

Welcome! Words in **bold** are said together.

Children are always welcome - they worship God too! Cloth bags with quiet activities are by the stairs to keep them engaged during worship. Our nursery is at the bottom of the stairs, to the left.

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Congregation: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (silence for reflection)

L: God of mercy, C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

L: God of might, C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

L: God in our midst, C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

L: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn – From Heaven Above v. 1-3

1. From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:
2. To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
3. "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free."

Lighting the First Advent Candle

L: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. C: Amen.

Greeting – L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: 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 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. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16 p. 645

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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." Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 124:1-10 p. 436

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

⁸Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 p. 960

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (sung) p. 102, setting 1

*Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 21:25-36 p. 856

²⁵"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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this

generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Sermon

David Ingram

Hymn of the Day – From Heaven Above v. 4-7

4. “The blessing that the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand, that is his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.”
5. “These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he: in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds.”
6. Now let us all with joyful cheer go with the shepherds and draw near to see this wondrous gift of God, the blessed child to us bestowed.
7. Look, look, dear friends, look over there! What lies within that manger bare? Who is that lovely little one? The baby Jesus, God’s dear Son.

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 God’s People

Each petition ends “*Lord, in your mercy,*” please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace – L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

Offering

◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705

◇ Online: “giving” tab at www.lordoflifeak.com/giving or the QR Code →

◇ Phone app: download “Give Plus Church” search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the instructions. Giving is secure.



Offering Hymn – From Heaven Above v. 8-10

8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away; how can our thanks such love repay?
9. O Lord, you have created all! How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger-bed where lowly cattle lately fed?
10. Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do to rock a prince so great as you.

Offering Prayer

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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving p. 107

Holy, Holy, Holy (sung) p. 108

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

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

Post Communion Prayer

L: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,

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.

Announcements

- Did you know... you can donate food boxes in your own name to someone needing a little extra help? Call the office Wednesdays between 10 and 11:30am to sign up
- Wed: 6:30pm Soup Supper/7pm Holden Eve Advent worship – first one 😊
- Help make our church pretty – donate \$15 marked "Poinsettia"
- Coming up: Sat. Women's Advent Brunch; 12-8 Fairbanks Lutheran Santa Lucia Celebration; 12-13 NP Missionary Chapel Carol Sing; 12-21 Blue Christmas service at Christ Lutheran

Sending Hymn – From Heaven Above v. 11-14

11. For velvets soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king so rich and great to be enthroned in humble state.

12. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.
13. My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue the sweetest ancient cradle song.
14. "Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Blessing

L: 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.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. C: Thanks be to God.

Special Thanks to...

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Birthdays & Anniversaries...

None

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