



# Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Announcements

#### Introduction

Hope might sound passive, but it's the farthest thing from it. Christian hope won't let you just sit on your hands. There are preparations to be made and roadwork to be straightened out because God is coming.

Passive hope assumes a sense of entitlement to God's grace, as if being in the "right family" gives you the right to God's grace. God's grace is always personal and always 100 percent gift. When God comes close to us we are filled with an active hope.

Active hope gets up under your fingernails. We can't help but turn toward this gracious God and turn away from things that harm others and ourselves. So here's the real gift: God comes close to us in order to make us ready for God's coming!

#### Litany

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel, **Prepare us up to your coming.**

We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows.

O Emmanuel, **Prepare us up to your coming.**

We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends.

O Emmanuel, **Prepare us up to your coming.**

We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives.

O Emmanuel,

#### Blessing of Nativities

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Let us pray. **Lord, bless all who look upon these nativity scenes. Bless them that they may remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and Savior of all, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Let us pray. **Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope. Amen.**

**Gathering Song #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 2 - Light two candles**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.  
✠ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

### **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

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Word

### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

**R** May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (*Ps. 72:7*)

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,

and your righteousness to | the king's son;

<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;  
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious | name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles

and sing praises to your name”;  
<sup>10</sup> and again he says,  
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;  
<sup>11</sup> and again,  
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;  
<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,  
“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”  
<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day #239 Hark, the Glad Sound - Saturday**  
**#254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - Sunday**

## **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 into hell,  
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 Intercession**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the

shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

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.**

#### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,

and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

*All who desire communion on this day are welcome to commune with us and partake in the promise of eternal life by Jesus Christ himself. In solidarity with our siblings in recovery, we use non-alcoholic wine. Please indicate if you would like a gluten free communion wafer. If you do not wish to take communion, you are still invited to ask the Vicar for a blessing before you leave. Traditionally, those who commune are baptized into the Christian faith. If you are*



*not baptized and would like to learn more about what it means to be baptized and share in the meal at the Lord's Supper Table, please talk with Vicar Elaine Robbins.*

## **Communion**

### **Communion Song - #597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less - Sunday**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.  
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**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

### **Sending Song #240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Anne Balko, Tara Henry, Larry Malloy, and Larry Tweedale.

**Nursing Home:** Norma Seceast

**Assisted Living:** Pepper VanLandschoot (Jacobetti), Pauline Elavsky – Harbour View,  
and Jane Guyott

**In Service:** Veterans who have returned to their communities.

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Elaine Robbins

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** George – Saturday      Norma - Sunday

**USHERS:** Volunteers – Saturday & Sunday

**MUSICIAN:** Candace Dennis

**ALTAR GUILD:** Marissa Graves

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Jim & Deb Perttula

## **EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Worship Service - 4:00 pm – In person**

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - In person & Facebook  
- 11:45 a.m. – Council Meeting**



### **GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP**

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.



The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00a.m.

WELCA Pizza Party is on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

The Quilting Bee will meet on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m.

The Book Club will **NOT** be meeting this month.

The Free Store will be open on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 and 4-6p.m

**If Saturday or Sunday worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice will be posted on Eden's Facebook page.**

[www.facebook.com/EdenLutheranMunising/](http://www.facebook.com/EdenLutheranMunising/)

**It will also be listed on WLUC TV6's closing page.**

[www.uppermichiganssource.com/weather/closings/](http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/weather/closings/)

**If you would like to help adorn the church with a poinsettia for Christmas, please follow the instructions and fill out a Christmas Poinsettia form located in the narthex.**

**Serving the congregation during worship** - Please consider volunteering on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings to usher, read lessons and prayers, assist with communion, or host fellowship.

**Flower Sponsors** Are always appreciated. Flower sponsorship is \$30 a month. Your gift may be placed in the offering with a notation for flowers and your selected month.

**Support our Youth Fund by dropping off returnable cans and bottles at the church.**

**If you have changed any of your contact information** (address, phone, email), please complete the directory update form in narthex.

**CHURCH CONTACT INFO:** Please note the email addresses you should use for contacting the office and the pastor. Office: [eden@jamadots.com](mailto:eden@jamadots.com) Pastor: [pastorofeden@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofeden@gmail.com)

**For Pastoral Care** contact Vicar Elaine 906-450-3344, or [pastorofeden@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofeden@gmail.com)