



# Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

## First Sunday of Advent

November 29 – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Announcements

#### Introduction

Salvation always comes as a surprise. It's what happens when God does for us what we could never do for ourselves. So when God comes close it is always unimaginable, yet God asks us to expect it.

There's no way to anticipate exactly how God will come close to us, but we gather together to keep vigil for the one whose coming we await. Christian hope is not so much about what or how as it is about who. Christian hope is located uniquely in the person of Jesus

Exactly where, when, and how God is reconciling the world is often a mystery, especially when we look at the mess of our world or even the messes in our own lives. We think to ourselves, "I can't imagine a good outcome to any of this!" That's when the yearning of God's Spirit moves us to a hope beyond any tangible solution we can muster, which says, "I don't know how any of this will work out, but Jesus, I trust you." It's true that God's kingdom comes, whether we pray for it or not, but this Advent we pray for Christ's loving reign to come within us.

#### Litany

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

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

We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.

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

We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel, **Wake us up to your coming.**

We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel, **Wake us up to your coming.**

#### Blessing of Advent Wreaths

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord

God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of our wreaths. Bless each wreath and its light to be a sign of Christ's unbroken promise to bring us salvation. **Amen.**

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

Let us pray. **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.**

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Song #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 1**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\dagger$  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.  
 $\dagger$  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 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

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”*

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In 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.

<sup>3</sup> Many 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.

<sup>4</sup> He 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.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 122

**R** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (*Ps. 122:1*)

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup> Now our feet are standing

**within your gates,<sup>1</sup> O Jerusalem.**  
<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built <sup>1</sup> as a city  
    that is at unity <sup>1</sup> with itself;  
**<sup>4</sup> to which the tribes go up, the tribes <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
    the assembly of Israel, to praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD. R**  
<sup>5</sup> For there are the <sup>1</sup> thrones of judgment,  
    the thrones of the <sup>1</sup> house of David.  
**<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace <sup>1</sup> of Jerusalem:  
    “May they prosper who love you.**  
<sup>7</sup> Peace be with- <sup>1</sup> in your walls  
    and quietness with- <sup>1</sup> in your towers.  
**<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my kindred <sup>1</sup> and companions,  
    I pray for <sup>1</sup> your prosperity.**  
<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD our God,  
    I will seek to <sup>1</sup> do you good.” R

### **Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup> 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; <sup>12</sup> 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; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> 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, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for

you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.<sup>43</sup> 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.<sup>44</sup> 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

### Hymn of the Day #256 **Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

#### **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.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. 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 - Instrumental**

#### **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 #264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Anne Balko, Gary Boldt, Cindy Little, Arlene Posont, Tara Henry, Larry, Caden, Jon Lindquist, Lochlan Heyrman, Michael Leposky, Edward Larson, Lori Glaister, Carol Eglsaer, Ruth Snyder, Eric Dahlgren, Larry Malloy, Darlene Hein, Steve Dausey, Dottie Hermanson, Tim Leiphart, and Larry Tweedale.

**Nursing Home:** Norma Secreast

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

**In Service:** Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen, and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Elaine Robbins

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** George – Saturday

Volunteer Sunday

**USHERS:** **Volunteers – Saturday & Sunday**  
**ALTAR GUILD:** **Christi Salo**  
**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** **POTLUCK**

### **EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday Worship Service - 4:00 pm – In person  
**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - In person & Facebook

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#### **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.

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

There will be a Council Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:45a.m.

**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.

**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.**

**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 needs, please contact Vicar Elaine Robbins  
906-450-3344, or [pastorofeden@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofeden@gmail.com)**