

St. Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name “Immanuel” (Which means God is with us).



St. Matthew 1:21

“She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2025

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn *What Child Is This* (ELW) No. 296

\*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive 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.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: 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.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise *Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending* (ELW) No. 435

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

**C: : Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. With Your great might, give us Your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

After the Old Testament Lesson is announced, Matthew Mazzotti will light the four candles on the Advent Wreath as the congregation sings verse 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Hymn No. 240.)

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 24

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**<sup>2</sup>for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

**<sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Emmanuel Will Soon Appear*

Adult Choir

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

(ELW) No. 631

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) page 27

\*The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

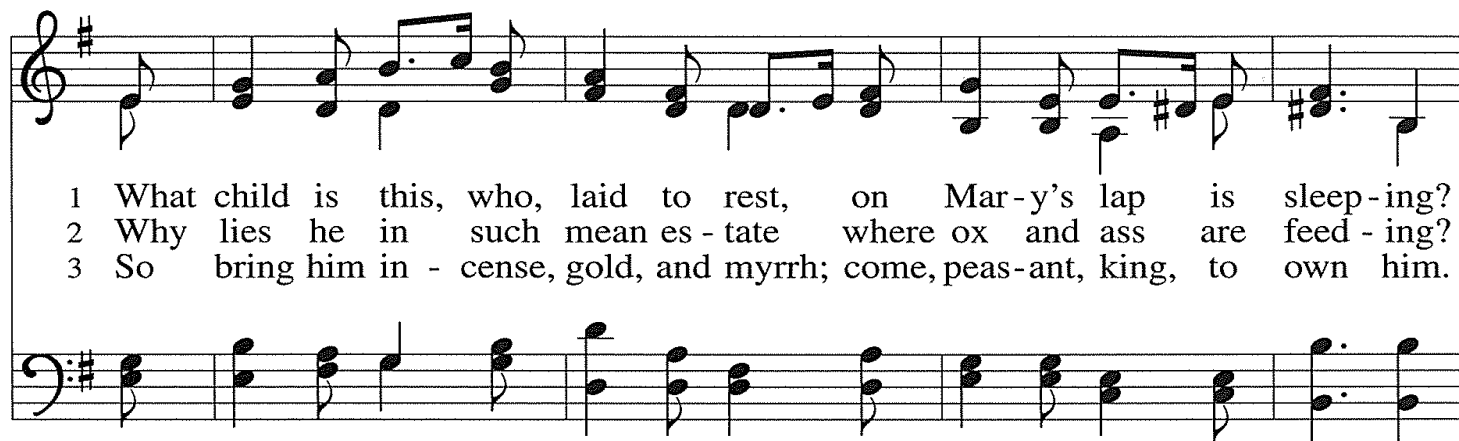
*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

(ELW) No. 543

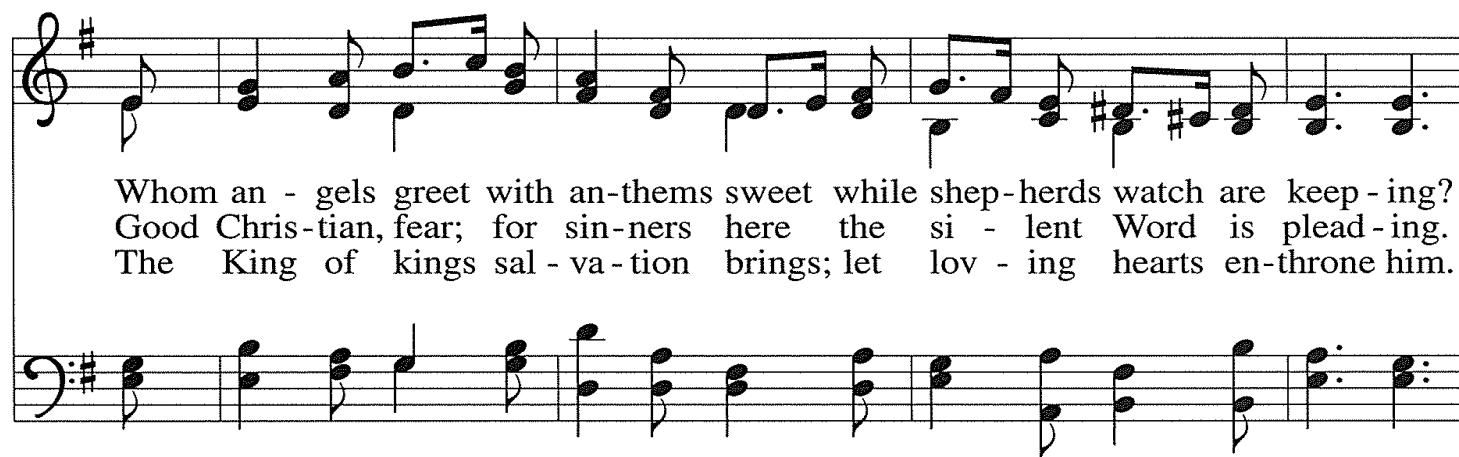
\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

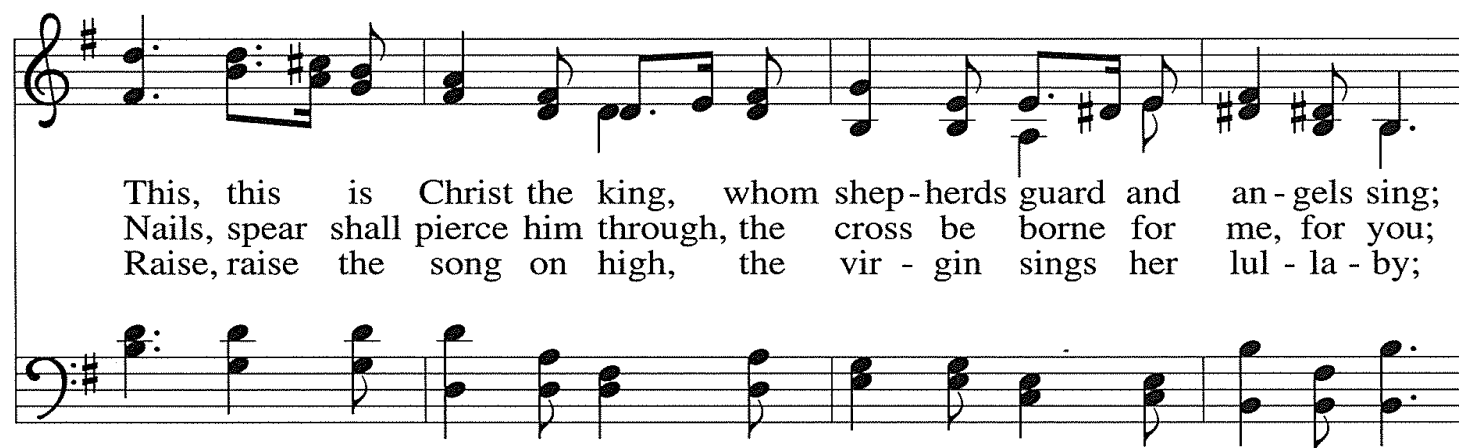
Postlude




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

# 435 Page 1 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

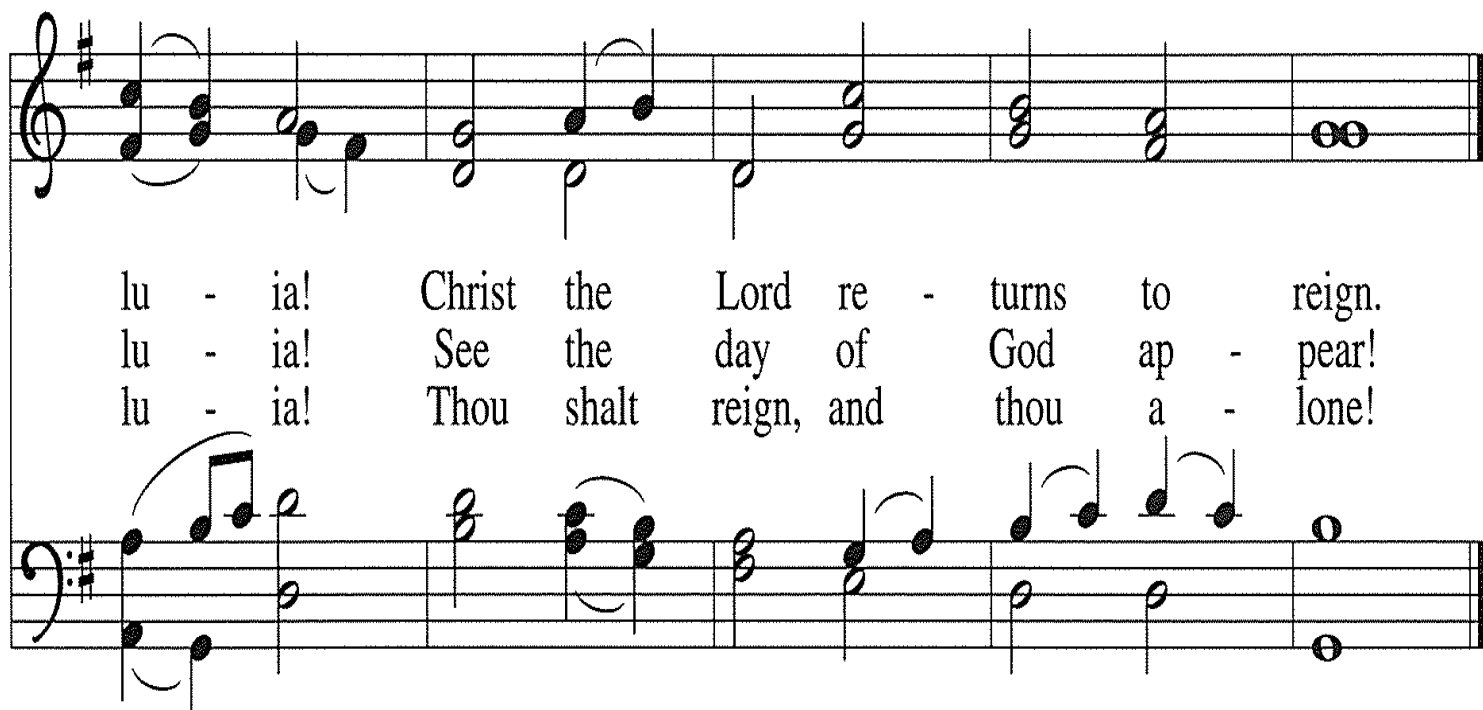
thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

# 435 Page 2 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

# The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -'.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics are 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -'.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly'.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

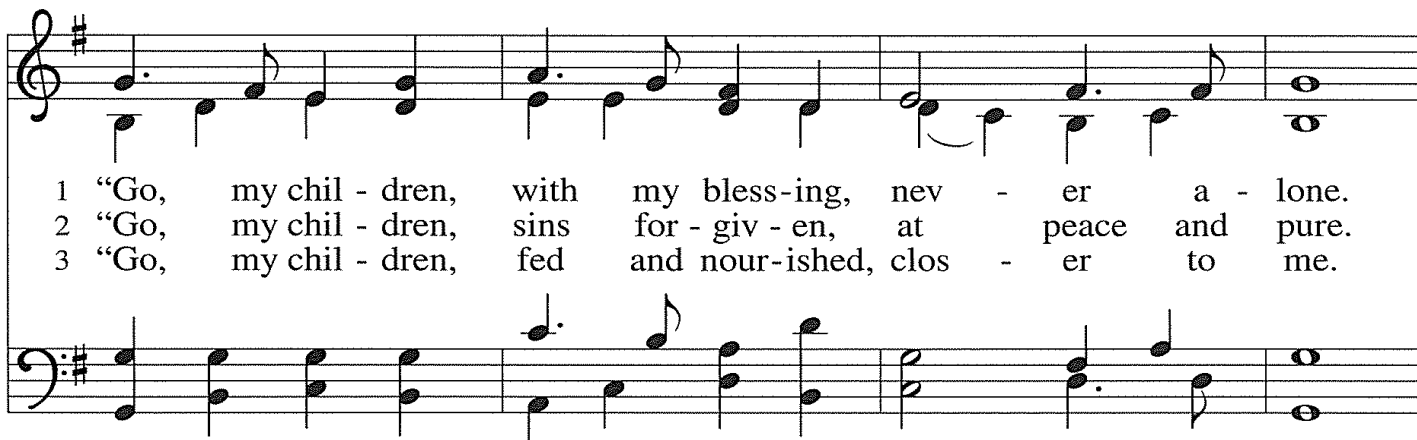
The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

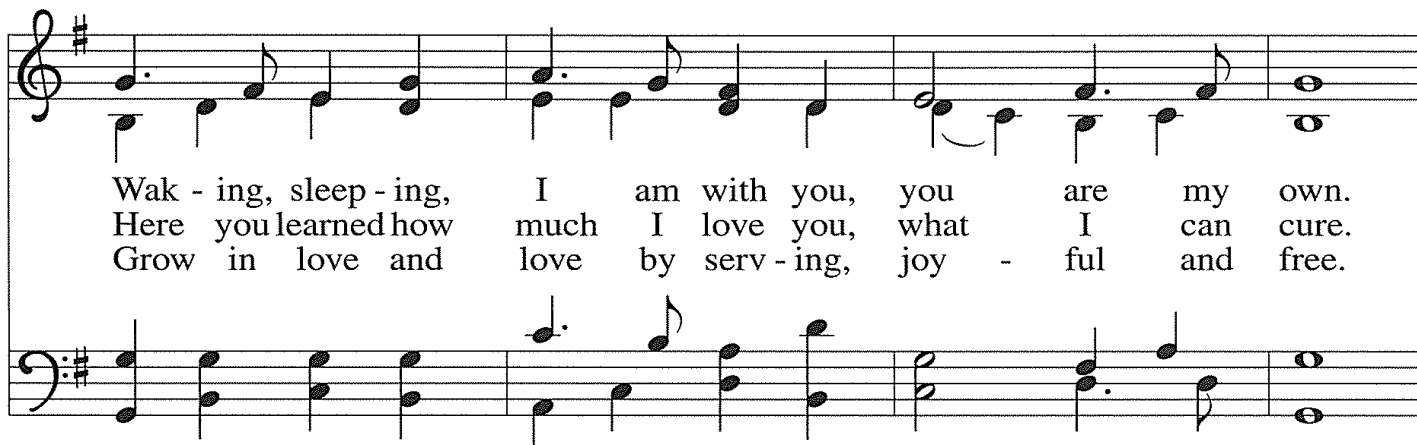
The fifth and final system of musical notation. The melody concludes with a fermata. The lyrics are 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

**First Lutheran Church**

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Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Mark Black, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God by Jeff Ulanich in memory of Helen. I love her, miss her, taking care of her kids. I put a Christmas wreath at the cemetery and have a happy birthday the day after Christmas.

**The Lay Reader** is Heather Quedenfeld.

**Acolytes** are Heidi and Denico Walsh.

**Counters/Greeters** today are K. Luketich and D. Schmidt.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

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**The Flower Chart for 2026** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2026.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2026.** Please sign up.

**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti, June Gosnell, Sally Hazlett, Erin Reel, Stacy Carroll, R.J. Ramone, Gary, and Debbie Beighley.

**Christmas Eve Service will be Wednesday, the 24th at 9:00 PM. Music begins at 8:30 PM.**

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE 724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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Sober House Living / Turning Point at Washington

724-228-2203

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# LISTENING FOR THE PROMISE

## Weekly Devotional

### Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 21, 2025

*“<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold,  
the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

*- Isaiah 7:14 -*

Just before Christmas in 1867, an Episcopalian pastor by the name of Phillips Brooks penned the beautiful Christmas hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. Nothing about Phillips Brooks was small, neither in the physical sense nor in his personality. He stood at about 6'6" tall and weighed over 300 pounds. His preaching was known to have a similar impact as his physical appearance. Nevertheless, he was known to be one of the greatest preachers of his time, serving in Boston and Philadelphia.

In 1865 when he was 30 years old, Brooks visited the Holy Land, where he attended a five-hour Christmas Eve service. He was deeply moved by the music and hymns giving praise to God throughout those five hours.

Two years later in 1867, Brooks wanted to write a special Christmas hymn for the children in his congregation to sing on Christmas Eve. He wrote a poem, and his organist Lewis Redner composed music to go along with it. What was born was the beloved Christmas hymn we still sing today: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

The third verse poignantly directs us to the very heart of Christmas. *No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.* Jesus came into this broken and sinful world to rescue us, to save us, from our sin and death and then give us eternal life with him.

God chose to come to into this world in the flesh. One of Jesus' names is the Hebrew name *Immanuel*, which means "God with us." God is with us even here and now. He lives in us and through us. Every time we share the Good News of the Gospel, (Christ came to live among us; he suffered; he died; he was buried in a tomb; and on the third day he rose from the dead, so that we might have life with him), we witness Jesus Christ among us. Jesus is with us no matter what. He promised us, before he ascended into heaven, that he would be with us to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20).

We can give the gift of God's likeness through us. When our lives reflect the God who lives in us, we can be different from the world, and that difference can bless others with the transforming presence of his love and grace.