

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2725 58th Avenue

Vero Beach, Florida, 32966

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www.livinglordlutheran.com



Our Mission Statement

“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”

PASTOR

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Adria Ryan

MUSICIAN EMERITUS

Pamela Wilcox

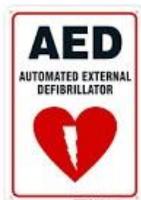
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org.) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

Pastor Greg’s contact information email: gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com Mobile phone: 610.295.9774



In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms.

Sunday, December 18th, 2022
Service of Holy Communion – Advent 4



WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY

As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.

+ *Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY *Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

WE SING *"My Lord, What a Morning"*
 ELW # 438

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the announcements, the assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

+ **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Blessed the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things. **All: Amen.**

Silence is kept from reflection before continuing...

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence before continuing...

P: God of new beginnings,
C: **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**



**We have strayed from your paths.
 We prepare for war instead of peace.
 We dishonor one another and your creation.
 Purify us with your refining fire.
 And set us again on your way of love,
 that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
 and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P: People of God,
 A new thing is growing in our midst,
 a tender branch,
 a living sign.
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
 You have put on Christ,
 and your sins have been washed away.
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
C: Amen.

+ ENTRANCE HYMN *“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”*
 ELW #288

+ KYRIE

Kyrie

Mass of Remembrance

Marty Haugen

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff (measures 1-8) has chords Dm, A7, Dm, Gm, Dm, A7, and Dm. The lyrics are: Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son, Chri - ste e - le-i-son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son. The second staff (measures 9-13) has chords F, C, Gm7, Asus4, A, and A7. The lyrics are: Je - sus Christ, have mer - cy: we_ ask for your for - giv - ness. The third staff (measures 14-21) has chords Dm, A7, Dm, Gm, Dm, A7, and Dm. The lyrics are: Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son, Chri - ste e - le-i-son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

L: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(the assembly prays together)*

C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated...

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING/HYMN

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of ever-lasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath. This Sunday, we light all four candles, including the pink candle, symbolizing Advent joy. Christians reflect on the Scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments this week, about the joy of our salvation in Jesus Christ. This Sunday is often referred to as "Joyful Sunday".

*In this **fourth week of Advent**, we celebrate the unearned and unconditional **love** of God that will come among us in the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. We ponder the conditions that we place upon our love, and our loyalty, as well as our sin of declaring some people outside the reach of God's love.*

*The assembly remains seated. As the lighters of the Advent wreath come forward, the assembly sings vs. 7 and 8 of "**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**", **ELW #257** After the reading and response, the assembly sings the Refrain again.*

Reader/s: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

All: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from Isaiah.

The reading is concluded...

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O Lord¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O Lord¹ God of hosts
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from Romans.

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able....

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is Near" (verse 3)

Refrain



Al - le-lu - ia! Hur-ry, the Lord is near. Al-le-lu-ia,
al - le - lu - ia! Hur-ry, the Lord is near.

Verses



1. Sound_ the trum-pet, the
2. Earth_ has longed _ for
3. Go out to meet _ him,
4. He is the might-y one,
1. Lord _ is near; Hur-ry, the Lord is near; see, _ he
2. his _ ap-proach: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; straight-en the
3. shout _ his name: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; his might-y
4. he is the Word: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; God ev - er -
to Refrain



1. comes _ to save us all.
2. road, _ smooth the path.
3. king-dom shall nev - er end.
4. last - ing, Prince of Peace. } Hur-ry, the Lord is near!

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

+ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

A: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

The prayers are concluded with these or similar words...

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

+THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The peace is shared by remaining in place and bowing, waving, extending a hand to those around you.

The service continues with the Offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates in the lobby/narthex of the church either prior to entering the worship space, or on the way out of the church. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.

OFFERTORY

*"I Wonder as I Wander"
WOV (blue) #642*

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ OFFERING PRAYER

A: Eternal God,
You make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive thee simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of y our mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

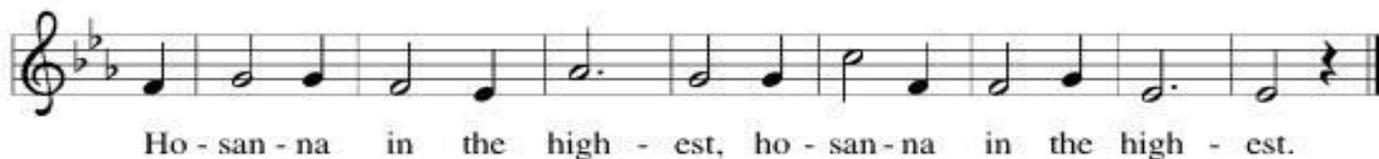
PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we
should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise
to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior
Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the
Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in
the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

+SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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The Presiding Minister continues...

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,
the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

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.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts,
which we are about to receive from your bounty.

Bless our table and the feast we share.
Bless us with gladness of heart.
Come, Holy Spirit.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table make us your body.
Form us to be people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

+LORD'S PRAYER

**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

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION SONG

The assembly is invited to be seated for the distribution of the Sacrament.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four staves. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and contains the melody for the first line of the song. The second staff is labeled 'All' and contains the melody for the second line. The third staff is labeled 'Cantor' and contains the melody for the third line. The fourth staff is labeled 'All' and contains the melody for the fourth line. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.' The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Cantor
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,
All
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Cantor
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,
All
grant us peace, grant us peace.

J. Michael Joncas
Music © 1989, WLP

The Sacrament is distributed. Worshipers will come forward, respecting social distancing, to receive a host from the Presiding Minister, and moving to the right, receive the wine from the Assisting Minister. Proceed to the right of the church as you face it, depositing the used wine container in the receptacle provided.

As the Presiding Minister offers these words, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and the Assisting Minister offers these words, “The blood of Christ, shed for you” each is invited to respond with “Amen.”

During the distribution of the Sacrament, the assembly is invited to sing below:

COMMUNION HYMN

After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Faithful God,
In this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ,.

as we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy my story.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



+BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
+bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ SENDING HYMN

STAY AWAKE

Christopher Walker

(clap)

Stay a-wake, be read-y. You do not know the hour when the
Lord is com-ing. Stay a-wake, be read-y. The Lord is com-ing
soon! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! The Lord is com-ing soon.

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+DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is near!

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Messenger in the Night

What did you dream about last night? Is there really any meaning in these vivid storylines that our brains assemble while we sleep? If you think dreams are essentially random firings of our neurons, you might just laugh them off. If you think they do tap into something real, you might try to unpack them. But almost no one makes *important life decisions* based solely on their dreams, right?

The stakes couldn't have been higher for Joseph and his dream, in which an angel tells him about Mary's unexpected pregnancy by the Holy Spirit. If he stays, he's got a story to tell that nobody is going to believe. But if he goes, if he "dismisses her quietly" as the gospel writer puts it, *what's going to happen to her?* What's going to happen to the baby?

It might seem that a message in a dream would be the *worst* possible way to make a decision as consequential as this. But if the purpose of our dreams is to put us in touch with what we already know, if it's to help us sort out our tangled-up emotions and give us some clarity, then perhaps a dream whose message is "Do not be afraid" is exactly what Joseph needs.

The dream-angel, in quoting the prophet Isaiah, helps Joseph connect his present reality with God's past faithfulness and promises. The angel reminds him that even in this terrifying situation, *God is with him*. We need such assurances as well when it feels like our world is falling apart: messengers to remind us who we really are and to whom we belong. Today we celebrate that Joseph trusted that message, and Mary before him. In them we see that God is faithful, and fear is cast out by the birth of this child.

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THANKS!

Many thanks to Eugene Burke and Maresi McGuire for providing the readings and the lighting of the Advent candles this morning!