

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

(409) 735-4573



First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

“An Advent Prelude” - Charles Callahan  
Jennifer Atkinson, flautist

*Please stand if you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God, we **lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✝ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanzas 1, 7 & 8

**ELW 257**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND GREETING**

*The first candle of the wreath is lit as we pray.*

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. **Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

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.**

**KYRIE**

“Turn to Us Again”

**ELW S529**

*Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The cantor and choir will sing the verses.*

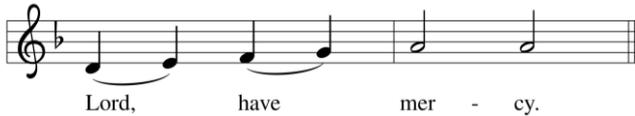
*Turn to us again, O God, our Savior, let your anger cease from us. Lord, have mercy.*



Lord, have mercy.  
*Show us your compassion, O God our Lord, grant us your salvation. Christ, have mercy.*



Christ, have mercy.  
*Come and bring salvation; we wait, O God; may your glory dwell in us. Lord, have mercy.*



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **FIRST LESSON**

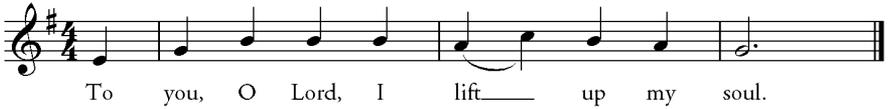
**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The 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. <sup>15</sup>In 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. <sup>16</sup>In 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.**

## PSALM 25

All worshipers are invited to sing the refrain; the choir will sing the psalm text.



*To you O Lord I lift up my soul; my God I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trust all the day long. R*

*Remember O Lord your compassion and love for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love, and for the sake of your goodness O Lord. Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. R*

## SECOND LESSON

## I Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And 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.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All worshipers will sing the Alleluia; the Choir will sing the acclamation.



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Stand up and raise your heads – your redemption is drawing near.*

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 21:25-36**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
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 INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal

light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS**

**ANTHEM**      “Creator of the Stars of Night” arr. John Ferguson

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**      *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. **Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

ELW 193

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us and bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## THE 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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**ELW 195**



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION**

“Ave Maria” - Johann S. Bach / Charles Gounod  
 Jennifer Atkinson, flautist

*Please stand if you are able.*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. **Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “Savior of the Nations, Come”  
**ELW 263**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **POSTLUDE**

“Veni, Emmanuel”

- Flor Peeters

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