



**Pilgrim**  
LUTHERAN  
**Church**

## Divine Service



**December 14, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

# Opening Hymn

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom  
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Strengthen our hearts  
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
May he give water to all who thirst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

*Three candles are lit.*

# Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage 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**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## The Sign of Peace

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

## Songs of Praise

### In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
In the Lord I will rejoice  
Look to God, do not be afraid  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near  
(Repeat)

You are my salvation, I will trust in you  
I shall not be afraid  
You are my strength, You are my song

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful  
In the Lord I will rejoice  
Look to God, do not be afraid  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near

### Sing a Joyful Song

Sing a joyful song unto the Lord  
Praise the Lord with gladness  
Sing a joyful song unto the Lord  
For He alone is God (Repeat)

Praise Him  
Praise the Lord with gladness  
Praise Him  
For He alone is God

Sing a joyful song unto the Lord  
Praise the Lord with gladness  
Sing a joyful song unto the Lord  
For He alone is God (Repeat)

Praise Him  
Praise the Lord with gladness  
Praise Him  
For He alone is God (Repeat)

# Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

### Zephaniah 3

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
18 as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19 I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

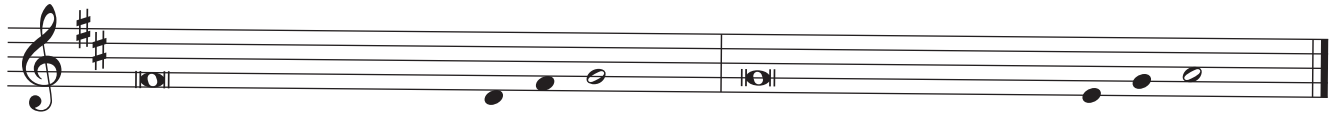
20 At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

# Responsive Reading

## Isaiah 12

### Tone



### Refrain



### Refrain: God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not • be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become • my salvation.

**3 With joy you • will draw water  
from the wells • of salvation.**

### Refrain: God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?

4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call • on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name • is  
exalted.

**5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done • gloriously;  
let this be known in • all the earth.**

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O • royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy • One of Israel.

**Glory be to the Father and • to the Son  
and to the Holy • Spirit;  
as it was in the be - • ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. • Amen.**

### Refrain: God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?

## Second Reading

### Philippians 4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

**Gemma Rodriguez**

## Gospel Acclamation

**God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Rev. Lew Upchurch**

# Confession of Faith

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, +  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Following each prayer petition:*

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## Offering



# The Sacrament of the Altar

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 our duty and our joy...evermore praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

## Words of Institution

### The 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.**

### O Lamb of God...

## Ways to Commune

**Intinction** – Dipped bread placed into hands or directly in the mouth

**Sealed Cups** – Gluten-Free in Blue and Alcohol-Free in Pink are available (take to seat, and we will commune together)

**Prayer** – Approach the communion table with arms crossing your chest

## Communion Song

### Emmanuel

Holy holy  
I will bow before  
My Lord and King  
Hallelujah  
You have come to us  
You make all things new

Emmanuel  
Jesus Christ  
You'll never let me go  
My Shepherd King  
You're watching over me  
Emmanuel

So amazing  
You have named the stars  
Of the deepest night  
Still You love me  
You have called my name  
I will follow You

Emmanuel  
Jesus Christ  
You'll never let me go  
My Shepherd King  
You're watching over me  
Emmanuel

Holy holy God Almighty  
There is none like You  
Holy holy God Almighty  
There is none like You

Emmanuel  
Jesus Christ  
You'll never let me go  
My Shepherd King  
You're watching over me  
Emmanuel

## **Blessing**

# Closing Hymn

## In Thee Is Gladness



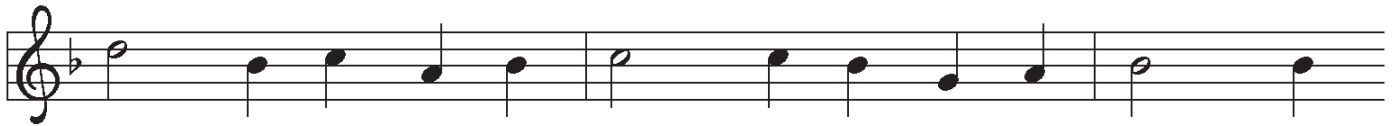
1 In thee is glad-ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my  
2 Je - sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the  
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



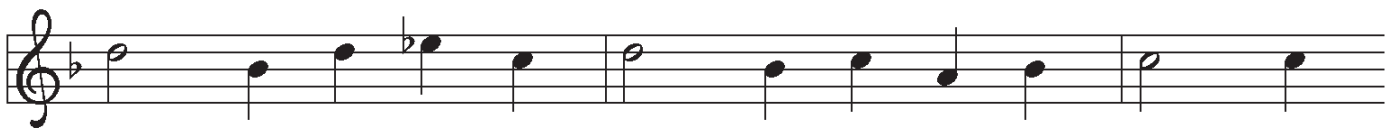
true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou  
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly  
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,  
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

# Announcements

## I Will Celebrate

I will celebrate  
Sing unto the Lord  
Sing to the Lord a new song  
I will celebrate  
Sing unto the Lord  
Sing to the Lord a new song

With my heart rejoicing within  
With my mind focused on Him  
With my hands raised to the heavens  
All I am worshiping Him

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used  
Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

# Serving at Worship Today

## **Preaching & Presiding**

Rev. Lew Upchurch

## **Director of Music**

Mary Harper

## **Reader**

## **Greeters**

## **Ushers**

## **Acolytes**

# Upcoming Events



Learn more about all upcoming events at [pilgrimsm.org/calendar](https://pilgrimsm.org/calendar)

# Christmas at Pilgrim

## **Christmas Eve Divine Worship**

December 24, 7:00 pm

*In-person and Online*

## **Christmas Day Greeting**

December 25, 10:00 am

*Online Only*

## Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

## Serve at Pilgrim



Interested in serving at Pilgrim? Scan the QR code or go to <https://pilgrims.org/serve-at-divine-service/> to complete an information form. We will contact you when trainings are scheduled for various service opportunities.

## Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!

## Happening this Week

### **Sunday, December 15**

Bible Study, 9:00 am  
Divine Service, 10:00 am  
Pilgrim Christmas Celebration, 11:15 am - 2:30 pm

### **Monday, December 16**

Alpha Prayers, 9:00 am  
*Online*  
*Contact Barbara P. to join.*

### **Tuesday, December 17**

### **Wednesday, December 18**

Advent Message, 6:00 pm  
*Online*

### **Thursday, December 19**

### **Friday, December 20**

### **Saturday, December 21**



**Pilgrim**  
L U T H E R A N  
**Church**

Called by the Holy Spirit,  
**we are an intergenerational community of  
worship and service**  
that invites the people of  
Santa Monica and beyond  
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ  
through Word and Sacraments.**

**Rev. Lew Upchurch**

*Interim Pastor*

Lew.Upchurch@pilgrimsm.org

**Mathew Mulligan**

*Media Ministry*

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