



Pilgrim
LUTHERAN
Church

Divine Service



December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 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

My Lord He is a-comin' Soon

My Lord He is a comin' soon
Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Get ev'rything ready for that day
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

If you're asleep it's time to wake up
Awake O sleeper arise
If you're in the dark it's time to be lit
Awake O sleeper arise

My Lord He is a comin' soon
Prepare ye the way of the Lord



Get ev'rything ready for that day
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Come Lord Jesus come into my heart
Prepare ye the way of the King
He is coming He's coming soon
Prepare the way of the King

My Lord He is a comin' soon
Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Get ev'rything ready for that day
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

John the Baptist now calls to us
Repent and change your ways
The true Messiah is coming soon
He could be here any day

My Lord He is a comin' soon
Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Get ev'rything ready for that day
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Comfort Oh Comfort

Comfort oh comfort
To every place that is scorched and dry
Comfort speak comfort
To every darkness in need of the light

In the wilderness the green of Eden
In the wasteland a garden blooms
Up from the desert springs a river
For He is making everything new

Comfort oh comfort
There is a highway through this dry land
They will call Him a Man of Sorrows
And like a seed buried deep to rise again

In the wilderness the green of Eden
In the wasteland a garden blooms
Up from the desert springs a river
For He is making everything new

Comfort oh comfort
For the ransomed will return with a song
And with joy we'll come into Zion
And all our sorrow all our sighing will be gone

In the wilderness the green of Eden
In the wasteland a garden blooms
Up from the desert springs a river
For He is making everything new
Oh He is making everything new

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

Isaiah 11

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

9 They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

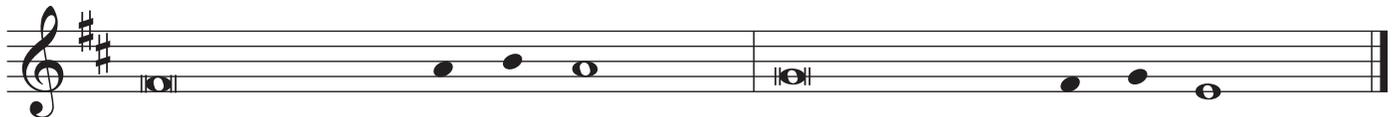
10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

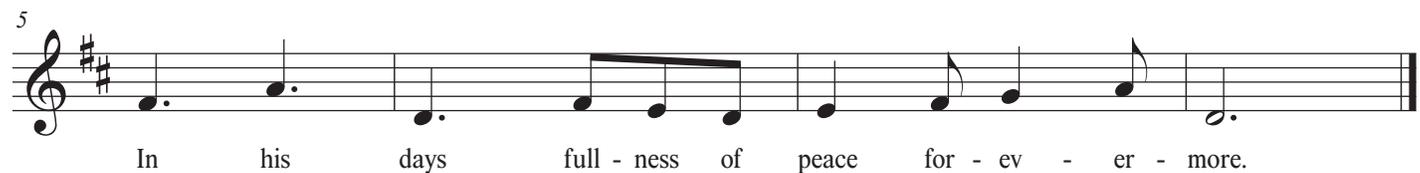
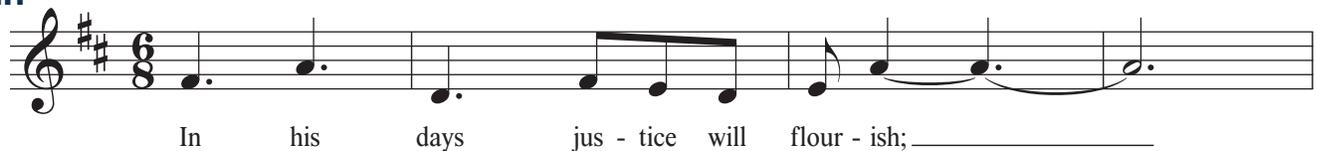
Psalm

Psalm 72

Tone



Refrain



Refrain: In his days justice will flourish; In his days fullness of peace forevermore.

1 Give the king your jus- • tice, O God,
and your righteousness to • the king's son;

**2 that he may rule your • people righteously
and the • poor with justice;**

3 that the mountains may bring prosperity • to the people,
and the • hills, in righteousness.

**4 Let him defend the needy a- • mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush • the oppressor.**

Refrain: In his days justice will flourish; In his days fullness of peace forevermore.

5 May he live as long as the sun and • moon endure,
from one generation • to another.

**6 Let him come down like rain upon • the mown field,
like showers that wa- • ter the earth.**

7 In his time may the • righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall • be no more.

**18 Blessed are you, Lord God, the • God of Israel;
you alone do • wondrous deeds!**

19 And blessed be your glorious • name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- • men. Amen.

**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: In his days justice will flourish; In his days fullness of peace forevermore.

Second Reading

Romans 15

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name."

10 And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

11 And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him."

12 And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope."

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

Children's Message

Gemma Rodriguez

Gospel Acclamation

In his days justice will flourish; In his days fullness of peace forevermore.

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

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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:

God, 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 – Pastor places bread in hands. Communicant dips bread in chalice held by Communion Assistant.

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

Fire of God

Light of the world
shine Your light Into my heart
God of love
Pierce my soul with Your mercy

So we might know Your glory
So we might see Your face
So we can feel Your heart beat
And hear You call our name

Fire of God
Burn away what is not holy
Jesus
Take our hearts and make them new

So we might know Your glory
So we might see Your face
So we can feel Your heart beat
And hear You call our name

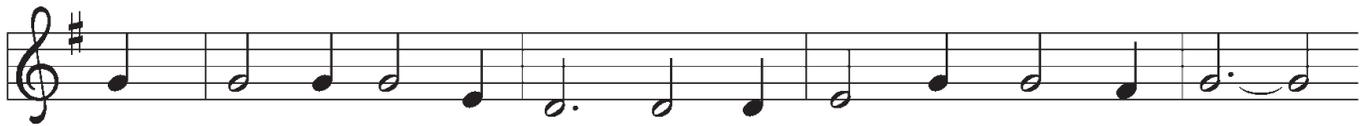
Blessing

Closing Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway



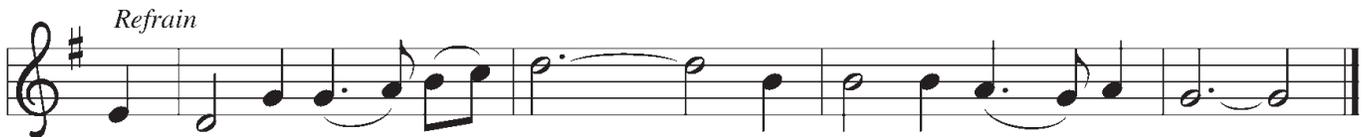
- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Announcements

Holy is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great how awesome is He
And together we sing
Ev'ryone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great how awesome is He
And together we sing
Ev'ryone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

It is rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

And together we sing
Ev'ryone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

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

Sermon Notes



Serving at Worship Today

Preaching & Presiding

Rev. Lew Upchurch

Director of Music

Mary Harper

Upcoming Events



Learn more about all upcoming events at pilgrimsm.org/calendar

'Tis the Season to be Giving!

Help fill the HOLIDAY HAMPERS for the UPWARD BOUND HOUSE (upwardboundhouse.org)
—our neighbors on 11th Street in Santa Monica.

Between **Sunday, November 23** and **Sunday, December 14** Pilgrim Lutheran Church will be collecting LAUNDRY PODS, DRYER SHEETS AND DEODORANTS or ANTIPERSPIRANTS for women and men. *Please bring your donated items on Sunday and place them in the holiday hampers in the Narthex.*

Holiday Bell Choir Concert presented by Concordia University Irvine

Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 PM.

First Lutheran Church of Venice: 815 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA

Joint Wednesday Night Advent Services

December 3rd at 7:00 PM. *First Lutheran Church Venice*

December 10th at 7:00 PM. *Pilgrim Lutheran Church*

December 17th at 7:00 PM. *First Lutheran Church Venice.*

Carpooling will be available.

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14th. Please join us in the gym after Service.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 PM

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!



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

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Mary Harper

Director of Music

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