



**Pilgrim**  
LUTHERAN  
**Church**

## Divine Service



**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

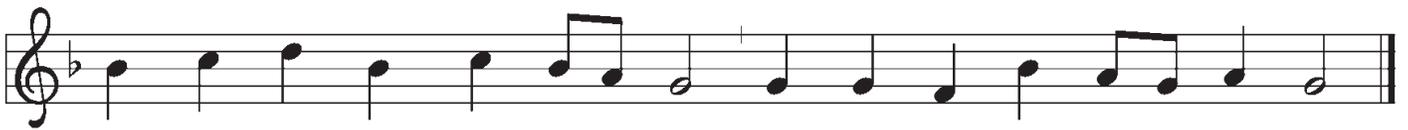
# Welcome

## Opening Hymn

### Savior of the Nations Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

## 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

### You'll Come

I have been chosen I have been called  
To wait upon You Lord  
My Rock and Redeemer shield and reward  
I'll wait upon You Lord

As surely as the sun will rise  
You'll come to us  
Certain as the dawn appears

You'll come let Your glory fall  
As You respond to us  
Spirit rain  
Flood into our thirsty hearts again  
You'll come You'll come

We are not shaken we are not moved  
We wait upon You Lord  
Mighty deliverer triumph and truth  
We wait upon You Lord

As surely as the sun will rise  
You'll come to us  
Certain as Your word endures



You'll come let Your glory fall  
As You respond to us  
Spirit rain  
Flood into our thirsty hearts again  
You'll come You'll come

Chains be broken lives be healed  
Eyes be opened Christ is revealed  
(REPEAT)

You'll come let Your glory fall  
As You respond to us  
Spirit rain  
Flood into our thirsty hearts again  
You'll come You'll come

## **Messiah**

Someone's shouting from the desert  
Someone's shouting from the sea  
Someone's shouting from the mountain  
Someone's shouting from the valley

Messiah  
Come and be our King  
Messiah  
Come and be our King

Someone's shouting from the city  
I am young I am cold  
Someone's shouting from the country  
I am lonely I am old

Messiah  
Come and be our King  
Messiah  
Come and be our King

Someone's shouting I am broken  
Someone's shouting make me whole  
Someone's shouting come and change me  
Someone's shouting save my soul

Messiah  
Come and be our King  
Messiah  
Come and be our King

# Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
2 it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

9 No lion shall be there,



55 the promise made • to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- • dren forever.

**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: Sing out my soul. Sing and soul. Sing out and glorify the Lord God.**

## Second Reading

### James 5

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

## Children's Message

**Gemma Rodriguez**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Sing out my soul. Sing and soul. Sing out and glorify the Lord God.**

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

2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

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

### Holy is His Name

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
And my spirit exalts in God my Savior  
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness  
And His name will be forever exalted

For the mighty God has done great things for me  
And His mercy will reach from age to age  
And holy holy Holy is His name

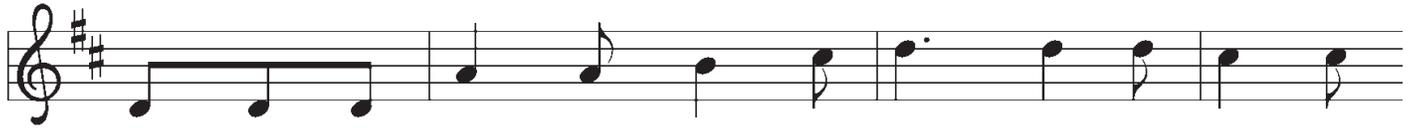
He has mercy in ev'ry generation  
He has revealed His power and His glory  
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance  
And has lifted up the meek and the lowly

For the mighty God has done great things for me  
And His mercy will reach from age to age  
And holy holy Holy is His name

# Blessing

## Closing Hymn

### People Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Announcements

## **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)

Praise Him  
For He alone is God

Praise Him  
For He alone is God

*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](https://pilgrimsm.org/calendar)

## 'Tis the Season to be Giving!

Help fill the HOLIDAY HAMPERS for the UPWARD BOUND HOUSE ([upwardboundhouse.org](https://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.*

## 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

**TODAY! 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*

Lew.Upchurch@pilgrimsm.org  
(949) 933-3595

**Mary Harper**

*Director of Music*

Mary.Harper@pilgrimsm.org

**Mathew Mulligan**

*Media Ministry*

Mathew.Mulligan@pilgrimsm.org

**office@pilgrimsm.org | 310.829.4113 | pilgrimsm.org**  
**1730 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90403**